Daily Report

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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Minister Departs After Meeting League Head

NC2107150095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1425 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf left Cairo for Sanaa this afternoon following a three- day stay in Cairo. During his stay, al-Sahhaf met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to discuss the international embargo on Iraq and the Arab League's role in the future.

Paper Analyzes Pan-Arabism, Palestinian Groups

NC2207072095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
18 Jul 95 p 20

[Report by Sayyid 'Ali in Damascus; from the "The Diplomatic Pouch" page]

[FBIS Translated Text] Thirty-seven [Palestinian] opposition groups are said to make up the political spectrum that ranges from the far right to the far left and includes individuals, groups, and organizations. Damascus cannot close its door to anyone. It is open to strangers, without a visa. Its only condition is that no one crosses its redlines. It will not let anyone involve it or push it into a battle it does not want. Also, it will not allow armed operations from its territories or even the planning for such. It knows the duties of hospitality and that the guest must first respect and not embarrass his host. Damascus can offer temporary hospitality until troubles quiet down and the guest returns home. These are unwritten rules between these opposition groups and Damascus, which still holds the pan-Arab dream. Arabism is talked about daily, almost romantically. Visitors to Damascus remember Cairo in the sixties. Though Arab unity has become a slogan that provokes both bitterness and disdain, the Ba'th Party has succeeded in making pan-Arabism a more attainable dream in Syria. Syrians believe that Arab reconciliation and unity are inevitable and are the Arab nation's only choice. Most Islamic organizations say they have no ties with Islamic groups in Egypt. Most of these organizations also reject violence and terrorism. They believe that terrorist movements are blisters on the face of Arabs and Muslims, that they are merely tools of foreign powers that do not want this nation to rise again, and that they are carrying out plots to distort Arabism and Islam.

Among the 37 groups in Damascus are 10 Palestinian groups that do not reject peace. They want to rectify and amend the process so that the negotiations result in a just and stable peace. These groups believe that Egypt is capable of guiding the peace process. Even the most uncompromising organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], believes that Egypt has become the Arab example of steadfastness in dealing with Israel. Abu-'Ali Mustafa, the PFLP's strongman following the illness of Dr. George Habash, demands that Egypt control the tempo in the region, curtail or limit the Israeli role, and continue the efforts to make Israel join the nuclear nonproliferation camp so that the region will not be at its feet.

In view of the divisions and ambiguity in Palestinian violence, a movement has emerged among the Palestinians living in the occupied territories. Another movement has emerged among those living outside them; and this is where most Palestinians live. They are banding together to protect peace based on the UN resolutions and on their deep desire for peace. The "Palestinian Grouping," led by Bassam al-Shak'ah and many West Bank individuals and groups, has emerged aiming to unite the Palestinian people inside and outside the territories. This is because the Oslo agreement ignored the Palestinians in the diaspora. This was stated by Khalid al-Fahum, the Palestine National Council's former chairman and leader of the Salvation Front, which includes al-Sa'iqah, Fatah-the Uprising, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command.

Al-Fahum discussed another Palestinian group in Jordan, the National Democratic Grouping, led by Ibrahim Bakr, some independent figures, and some factions pursuing the principles that al-Shak'ah follows. Two additional groups are being considered, one would support the Palestinian refugees in Syria and one would be in Lebanon. These groups include many popular Egyptian figures, such as Dr. Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani. Another group being considered in the diaspora is led by Dr. Edward Said and Dr. Nasir 'Ar'uri. Once these groups are formed, they will unify and elect a leadership and an executive committee to mend the PLO. This group will support the PLO, rather than work parallel to or against it. It is seen as the crutch the PLO needs to achieve national Palestinian unity and be able to work for full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. Al-Fahum said most Palestinian factions support negotiations but stress that the Palestinian negotiator should learn from Egypt's experience during the Taba talks.

Most Palestinians say they oppose terrorism. Abu-'Ali Mustafa points out that they accept al-Shak'ah's national coalition leadership and will support it until a national federation is created for the first time inside the occupied territories, not outside them.

After the discussions that announced this group, obstacles appeared. Hamas said it would not take part without special status. The PFLP proposed restructuring PLO in-

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stitutions based on democracy. It wanted popular elections, wherever the people may be, so that the institutions represent all Palestinians.

Mahir Hamdi, member of the DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine] Central Committee, said the establishment of the national coalition will be based on a specific national program, the outline of which has been agreed upon. The program believes in continuing the intifadah and returning to the resolutions of international legitimacy as a reference points, since this was the basis on which the PLO entered negotiations. Hamdi points out that this coalition will not be a political party but a formula to bring all the parties together on the least acceptable points of agreement, because today the occupation is being reorganized at the expense of Palestinian interests.

Palestinian factions state unanimously that they are not against negotiations. Some even say they were pioneers in drafting the PLO's transitional political program in the summer of 1973, which was later endorsed by the Rabat Arab summit. It was this program that defined the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and led the PLO to become an observer at the UN. This program contained a comprehensive political negotiating deal with Israel, opening the door for the establishment of two states: one Palestinian and one Israeli on equal footing on the historical land of Palestine. Since the Madrid conference, nobody has spoken against negotiations. These factions only call for streamlining the negotiations so that they result in overall and lasting peace.

In this regard, Islamic Jihad Secretary General Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi offers a new vision rejecting internal violence. Al-Shaqaqi does not see violence as an Islamic trend but notes that violence is a historical phenomenon and that the left is the most prominent symbol of violence and 20th century's terrorism [as published].

Under this new Islamic Jihad vision, the conflict with Israel is not based on religion. It calls for changing the unfair balance of power with Israel, which alone possesses a nuclear arsenal, and a broader popular alliance. Al—Shaqaqi emphasizes that the struggle against the enemy takes precedence. As for internal differences, they must be settled without using violence. National experiments need to be reexamined and reassessed to create a broad front, he adds. Development is necessary for society to progress and is the inevitable option for science and industry. The vision of al-Jihad rejects political despotism and calls for wide political participation. It views shura [consultation] as a divine duty and not just an individual right. It is an obligation to demand that those who fail to seek advice from those well-versed in knowledge and religion be dismissed from office. The vision gives individuals the authority to interpret religious issues not explicitly mentioned in the Koran. Al-Shaqaqi adds: We are for democracy, because Islamists are among those most victimized by the absence of democracy. No one stands to gain more from democracy, pluralism, leadership with regulated changes, and respect for a constitution freely chosen by the people more than the Islamists, he adds.

Palestinian Affairs

Officials, Others Condemn Ramat Gan Attack

'Arafat, Sha'th, Abd-al-Rahim

JN2407113095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0948 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Report by Hasan Abu-Zayid, from the "With the Midday Events" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinian Authority [PA] President Yasir 'Arafat strongly condemned the bus incident in Ramat Gan today and said that this terrorist act was intended to harm the peace process and to prevent the PA from asserting its authority over the Palestinian territories in the West Bank. He added:

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] I fully condemn it because it is an attempt to obstruct the negotiations and the peace process.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

['Arafat] I hope that this will not happen. I hope that Mr. Rabin's government and my Council of Ministers with their wisdom will tackle the challenges we are facing through such operations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, PA official in charge of planning and international cooperation, also denounced the incident and said that it was aimed at killing innocent people and at harming the peace process, on which we seek progress day and night. He added that the perpetrators carry out such acts every time we reach an agreement with Israel on the release of our prisoners.

[Begin recording] [Sha'th] I just heard the news about the painful incident which is strongly condemned. It reminds us of all attempts by those who are trying to destroy the peace process by seizing every opportunity to destroy this process. We are currently engaged in serious negotiations to move to the second stage of negotiations to implement the transfer of National Authority [NA] to the West Bank. They carried out a criminal act which targets innocent people. We

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have agreed in the peace process to halt all violence. Therefore, this is a deliberate, planned operation to torpedo the peace process. The NA will do all it can; if that operation really did originate from the NA's areas, the NA will shoulder its responsibility.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Nabil Sha'th: Do you think this incident will influence the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians?

[Sha'th] I hope not. I hope we learn from the previous delays and do not surrender to extortion from anyone, be they the violent Palestinian Right or the violent Israeli Right. I also hope we try to complete these negotiations because, then, the PA will deploy its troops in all areas of the West Bank and help increase security. Of course, we have no authority inside Israel or inside the West Bank now, so we cannot play any role unless that operation originated from the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, the PA's secretary general, has said the PA will take necessary measures if it is found that the perpetrators of the operation came from the self-rule areas.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-al-Rahim] This is a reprehensible terrorist act intended to torpedo the peace process. We cast great suspicions over those who perpetrated this criminal act.

[Correspondent] What measures will the PA take if the perpetrators were found to have come from the self-rule areas?

['Abd-al-Rahim] If they came from the self-rule areas, the PA will take necessary deterrent measures, because this act is in violation of the agreement that has been reached by all factions. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Arafat Condoles Rabin

JN2407135395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat today held a telephone conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in which he offered condolences for those killed in the bombing of an Israeli bus in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv this morning. Eight Israelis were killed and 33 others were wounded in the incident.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation, said the bombing of the Israeli bus near Tel Aviv aims to halt the peace process and delay the expansion of the National Authority to the rest of the West Bank. Sha'th said the National Authority is not responsible for security inside Israel.

'Arafat Urges Vigilance

JN2507064395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The [Palestinian] National Security Council held a meeting last night chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat. The council was briefed on developments following yesterday's deplorable operation in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv and the closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

President 'Arafat said that the aim of this operation is to jeopardize the interests of our people, prevent us from regaining the West Bank, halt the release of prisoners, and deal a blow to the Palestinian track of the peace process. 'Arafat added that the aims of forces that oppose peace in Palestine and the forces that oppose peace in Israel are one and the same.

President 'Arafat asked ranking military leaders to continue to remain alert, vigilant, and mobilized to foil any attempt to jeopardize the peace process, harm the interest of our people, and prevent them from achieving their national goals, given that the powers seeking to harm the peace process have not stopped their attempts to achieve their dubious goals by any means.

President 'Arafat praised the continuous efforts of all security bodies and organizations to preserve the security of the citizens and the homeland as well as to protect the property of the people from being tampered with or sabotaged by forces that hate our people.

Orient House Urges Peace Talks

JN2407192195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Orient House in occupied Jerusalem has called for continuing the peace process in order to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace, which ensures security for all. It rejected and denounced the Israeli bus bombing in Ramat Gan this morning.

In a statement issued today, the Orient House stressed that the bombing came at a time when efforts are continuing to reach a Palestinian-Israeli agreement on implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles. Orient House urged all forces that have faith in peace not to allow the enemies of peace to realize their objectives.

Hamas Representative Justifies Use of Jihad

NC2407194695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Abu-Hamdan, representative of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, in Tehran,

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by Jihad al-'Idan on 24 July; from the "News and Reports" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-'Idan] Mr. Abu-Hamdan, we would like to hear what you have to say about the martyrdom operation carried out by one of Palestine's sons against the Zionist entity's settlers, the latest casualty figures among the Zionists, and the party responsible for the operation.

[Abu-Hamdan] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The martyrdom operation occurred in the Ramat Gan suburb of Tel Aviv, an area largely inhabited by religious Jews, at 0830 today, Palestine time. The blast was the result of an explosive device carried by one of the movement's martyrdom mujahidin. Zionist sources have admitted that eight people died in the explosion. Initially there were some conflicting figures. At first they announced that six had died, then they said eight. Thirty were injured. According to the Zionist radio, five of the wounded are in grave condition. We believe that this operation, like earlier similar ones and probable future operations, are part of the Palestinian Muslim nation's jihad option. The Palestinian nation is totally convinced that there is no way to liberate its territory and regain its usurped possessions except by jihad.

[Al-'Idan] Mr. Abu-Hamdan, in the opinion of the Palestinian mujahidin, of what significance is the choice of a site deep inside the usurped entity, like Tel Aviv, to carry out their martyrdom operations?

[Abu-Hamdan] As you know, the Zionist entity is based on a security concept. By buying off a group of Palestinians and concluding an agreement by which this group is selling out our people's rights, territory, and sanctities, the Zionists are betting that this will bring them security. We believe that security can never be achieved except when the Zionists withdraw from our occupied territories and return to the remote corners of the earth from which they came.

[Al-'Idan] Mr. Abu-Hamdan, what political and moral repercussions could this operation have for the Palestinian people?

[Abu-Hamdan] To begin with, we believe that jihad is the Palestinian people's choice. We can never abandon this option, bargain it away, or negotiate about it. These operations underline this Palestinian option and strengthen the Palestinian people's convictions, particularly when they see that those who are selling out the cause are reaping a bad harvest and that the Palestinian nation is the biggest loser from selling out the cause.

Psychologically these operations inspire the Palestinian people and raise their morale by showing them that we do not always lose and are not the only ones who mourn. These operations demonstrate that just as we mourn our martyrs and the loss of our rights, we can also make these enemies, who every day and every hour put a bitter taste in our mouths, mourn also. Indeed, these operations show that we can reach a stage where we can strike at targets deep inside their ranks despite their vaunted security measures to protect their people and soldiers.

[Al-'Idan] In your opinion, what effect might this martyrdom operation have on the peace process between 'Arafat and the Zionists?

[Abu-Hamdan] I am sorry to say that 'Arafat has sold his soul to the devil and cannot turn back. He has invested all his capital in this vile venture and cannot back out at all. If he backs out, it will spell his end, at least on the international stage. Nevertheless I believe that if he withdraws from this venture, he will be taken back into the embrace of his people, from whom he has separated himself. Regrettably, however, it appears that the group who follow 'Arafat has chosen to continue straying from the straight path and to go on negotiating.

We are not concerned with the results of this so-called peace process. What concerns us is to emphasize that the jihad option remains. Despite some allegations that are our people have grown weary and want to make concessions, they are still capable of sacrifice and determined to regain all their rights with pride, dignity, and honor, not by being dictated to and humiliated daily in the negotiations as if there is no other option.

[Al-'Idan] Yasir 'Arafat has condemned the operation and said it is an attempt to ruin the negotiations. He alleged that the Iranians are backing Islamic Jihad and Hamas. It is an attempt to accuse Iran. What do you have to say about this?

[Abu-Hamdan] I believe this allegation is stupid. Yasir 'Arafat has always made all sorts of allegations. The problem is that 'Arafat and his supporters do not realize that Muslims everywhere empathize with each other. They do not realize that Muslims all over the world have similar tragedies and causes and that all Muslim hearts are turned toward Palestine because it is the first Qibla, the third of the two Holy Mosques, and a land that God blessed for all his people, not only Palestinians. This is why 'Arafat imagines that the Muslims' enthusiasm and backing for jihad operations are wrong. If he thinks that by making such accusations he will become more acceptable to the Zionist entity and the West and gain more respect from them, he is wrong. Furthermore, I believe that 'Arafat's condemnation of this martyrdom operation is proof that he has separated himself from the Palestinian nation.

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[Al-'Idan] Mr. Abu-Hamdan, Hamas representative in Tehran, thank you.

[Abu-Hamdan] May God bless you.

Jericho VOP Reports Shooting of Police Officer

JN2307143395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible Palestinian police source has stated the following:

At exactly 0900 today, three persons in a Peugeot 404 car intercepted the car of Police 1st Lieutenant Muhammad Salah in a side street in al-Shati' camp. They opened fire on him with a pistol and 'Uzi machine gun, hitting him in various parts of his body. They then fled the scene.

The Palestinian people and security organs are searching for the criminals.

Al-Rujub Denies Link to E. Jerusalem 'Policemen'

TA2107184195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Report by Territories correspondent Yoram Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian security chief has denied any connection with the 'Isawiyah residents who were detained yesterday on suspicion of operating as Palestinian policemen in East Jerusalem. He asserted that they are criminals who were not under his command at all. Jibril al-Rujub made these remarks at a Palestinian security service graduation ceremony. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Kohen] What will happen if a settler blocks your path?

[Al-Rujub] Listen, we will defend ourselves against the settlers or anyone else who tries to stand in our way. According to the agreement, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Israel Police should deal with the settlers. [passage omitted] [end recording]

'Arafat, Egypt's Musa Discuss DOP Developments

JN2407114695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1100 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat this morning received a phone call from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. They discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] Agreement.

'Arafat Adviser on 'Tangible Progress' in Talks

JN2107143795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1112 GMT 21 Jul 95

[Interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by Yusuf al-Mahmud; place and date not given; from the "Today's Events" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Mahmud] Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat: Good afternoon.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Good afternoon, brother Yusuf.

[Al-Mahmud] How do you evaluate the outcome of the Alexandria meeting held between His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat and President Mubarak in the presence of Shim'on Peres?

[Abu-Rudaynah] As you must be well aware, the meeting was important. During the meeting, the conferees addressed the last snags standing in the way of the agreement expected to be finalized within the next few days. The talks addressed the issue of redeployment and the need for Israeli troops to withdraw from the major seven cities discussed. Moreover, the talks addressed a security concept enshrined in a Palestinian draft agreement. The talks also revolved around the second area, codenamed area B. As you must be well aware, there are differences between the Palestinian security concept and the Israeli security concept. The negotiations are still continuing. Some progress has been made in this area. Nonetheless, the issue of redeployment has not been resolved completely thus far. Additionally, the talks addressed the water issue. The Israelis have made an offer which the Palestinians have not thus far accepted. Important water negotiations will be conducted. The Palestinian position in this regard is clear. The Palestinians are demanding their water rights in full. The Israelis have offered to increase our water allocations. Nonetheless, the Palestinian side has not accepted this offer. Moreover, the issue of detainees has been raised. President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has asked the Israeli side to honor the commitments and pledges made with regard to releasing all detainees. As you know, the issue of female prisoners was resolved immediately after President Mubarak telephoned Israeli President Weizman, who promised that Israel will free female prisoners.

As I have told you, substantive differences regarding the participation of Jerusalemites in the elections have been worked out. However, the two sides have not thus far agreed on where they will cast their votes. Tangible progress has been made. However, many issues still need to be worked out. As you must be well aware,

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Egyptian and U.S. efforts are being made to push the two sides to an agreement as soon as possible.

[Al-Mahmud] Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah: Do you believe that the agreement will be signed by 25 July, as has been suggested?

[Abu-Rudaynah] We hope so. The Palestinian side is ready to sign such an agreement. Nonetheless, the materialization of such an agreement needs a relevant Israeli decision. As a matter of fact, there are certain outstanding issues that still need to be discussed and agreed upon. As I have told you, efforts are being made to narrow the gaps between the two sides. The target date of 25 July is approaching. It will transpire in the Palestinian-Israeli talks that will be resumed on Sunday [23 July] whether we will reach an agreement by the 25 July deadline or whether we will still need a few more days to reach such an agreement.

[Al-Mahmud] Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat: Thank you.

[Al-Rudaynah] You are most welcome, brother Yusuf.

PLO's 'Abbas: Talks To Ultimately Lead to Accord

JN2307172895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Jul 95

[From the "With the Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [PLO Executive Committee member] Mahmud 'Abbas has stated that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations will ultimately lead to an agreement, and that there is no need to set dates.

Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] arrived in Ramallah today to take up permanent residence. Our correspondent Yasir 'Atilah conducted this special interview with Abu-Mazin. Following is part of it:

[Begin recording] ['Atilah] Mr. Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin: You entered the Gaza Strip again 10 days ago through the Rafah crossing. When will you enter the political arena and how will you do so?

['Abbas] I have not yet left the political arena because I still work as a member of the PLO Executive Committee and of the Fatah Central Committee. I pursue political action through my membership in these two committees.

['Atilah] You played a great role in formulating the Oslo agreement. Will you take part in formulating future agreements?

['Abbas] I believe that my first contribution was made jointly with a number of brothers who also took part in the Oslo agreement. I also believe that the brothers who are taking part in the negotiations are sufficiently competent to formulate the second phase of negotiations and, later, the final phase.

Through our leading position, we are following up on this issue, exactly like other brothers.

['Atilah] What role, if any, will you play?

['Abbas] At present, there is no distinct or specific role. However, this role will be part of Palestinian action and within the framework of the Palestinian leadership. But, as for working for the Palestinian Authority, it is out of the question, at least in the current phase. Perhaps, I will play a role through my presence here, along with other brothers, in drawing our future policy.

['Atilah] Will you run in the elections as a candidate for a certain post?

['Abbas] In fact, I do not have any desire to run for election.

['Atilah] Mr. Mahmud 'Abbas, Abu-Mazin, you are welcome. Thank you.

['Abbas] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Minister al-Husayni Views Obstacles to Peace

AU2507104595 Cologne Deutschlandfunk Network in German 0440 GMT 25 Jul 95

[Interview with PA Minister Faysal al-Husayni by Ulrich Leithold in Amman; date not given — al-Husayni speaks in English with superimposed German translation]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Leithold] Mr. Husayni, what are currently the main obstacles to the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that most difficult of these are the arrangements for the Israeli troop withdrawal, the preparation of the elections, and the fact that the Israelis do not want to remove all their settlements from the West Bank. This creates complications and results in fears in connection with the Israelis' withdrawal. Thus, a new situation, which neither we nor the Israelis will have under control, might develop in the West Bank. This is the most delicate point. We can only hope that Israel will remove some of these settlements and enable us in this way to control our areas better. One thing is clear: If I want to protect myself and others comprehensively, I need full control. Less authority means less control. As a consequence, less control also means less security. So far, the Israelis have not understood this equation. I think that we will be able to achieve an agreement if we solve the problem.

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The second problem that we have are the opponents of the peace process. Before every new step of negotiations, they come up with operations or attacks that poison the atmosphere and obstruct the negotiations. We are currently witnessing this again with the kamikaze attack in Ramat Gan. The only result is that everything is becoming far more difficult. There are still forces, that is, on both sides, that want to stop the peace process. In fact, they are pulling together and benefit from each other, at least indirectly, by their actions. These are the rightists in Israel and the Palestinian opposition. In the end it serves the same purpose for both. These suicides are against the peace process.

[Leithold] You missed 1 July as the date for the second stage of autonomy. Nor are you keeping to 25 July. How important are such dates for you?

[Al-Husayni] They are important, but clear agreements are equally important. Therefore, I do not think that it is a disaster if we exceed the date by one week. We can live with that. But it should not take longer.

[Leithold] Would it not be better to exclude certain issues, for example, the question of water?

[Al-Husayni] Actually, I believe this is what is happening. But we cannot put it off because if one is responsible for agriculture, how can this be possible without water?

[Leithold] The other day you warned the Palestinians against expecting a Western-style democracy in their state. Do they really expect a Western-style democracy?

[Al-Husayni] Democracy as it is generally known is the Western one. If one wants to implement it here, there must be some changes. This is not so easy in our society. Thus, we have to find our own way and gather experience to achieve permanent democracy. We cannot promise the people that everything will be rosy and like in the West. We will see some difficult things because we are working with ourselves.

[Leithold] People are waiting for improvements by peace. If there were none, do you fear that the intifadah will come back?

[Al-Husayni] Look, the Palestinians are swallowing a lot in this agreement. They are doing this for peace, for the Israelis' withdrawal, their own state, and their freedom. A new page is being turned. However, if they were to discover that they have been deceived and that things are still working in the same way as before, there will be problems.

AL-QUDS Views Outcome of Alexandria Meeting

TA2107173095 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 20 Jul 95 p 13

[Editorial: "The Alexandria Meeting and 25 July"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Alexandria meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres failed to achieve its proclaimed goal despite the announcement that tangible progress had been achieved. That goal was to announce the possibility of concluding the Palestinian-Israeli talks on their fixed date, 25 July. This did not materialize because of the obstacles placed by Israel.

The important role that President Mubarak is playing in bringing the two sides' positions closer, which at the same time reflects Egypt's concern for Palestinian interests above any other consideration, had in the past achieved progress on the Palestinian track and can still bring about such progress both in the present and the future. This is despite the fact that the inflexible Israeli positions render the task of the Egyptian brothers somewhat difficult because of the Israeli side's insistence on not making any concessions, especially in terms of West Bank water sources and Palestinian rights over them.

Thus, in the wake of the Alexandria meeting, it was clearly announced that the Palestinian and Israeli sides will not reach the long-awaited agreement by next Tuesday, the target date. The only channel of negotiations now is the one near Haifa, which has witnessed some sort of a crisis during the past few days because of the Israeli side's insistence on maintaining the status quo with regard to water quotas and their unfair distribution.

If we rely on the statements by the Israeli side in assessing the results of the Alexandria meeting and its repercussions on the negotiating process, one can say that the reasonable ideas that the Israeli side said were presented during the meeting will need some time before being transformed into proposals acceptable to the Palestinian and Israeli sides. In the meantime, the ongoing talks — whether here or there — will continue to ebb and flow. Meanwhile, time is moving fast in the direction of political developments and changes in the Israeli and U.S. arenas; namely, the elections in both countries. This calls for the Palestinian and Israeli sides to preempt those changes and entrench the realities of a just and comprehensive peace from which no party can back down or sidestep.

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'Arafat Adviser Urges PFLP Leader To Return

JN2207124395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Jul 95 p 25

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupied Bethlehem — QUDS PRESS — A Palestinian official who is close to Palestinian National Authority President Yasir 'Arafat has urged Palestinian opposition leader George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], to immediately return to the homeland and to work closely with the Palestinian leadership in order to wage the battle of construction.

Brigadier General Khadir al-Lahham, Mr. 'Arafat's adviser, said: On behalf of President 'Arafat, I urge leader Habash to immediately return to the homeland to share with the us the march of struggle.

He added: We want his mind to be with us and we need his comrades. The homeland is for all and there is no veto against anyone.

The Palestinian spokesman said that no one will be regarded as a traitor or infidel, that no doubts will be cast against anybody, and that no one will be disregarded. Everyone is important in the Palestinian arena. What has been achieved is an accomplishment through everyone's efforts. He added: In the event of failure, everyone will be held responsible.

PFLP Ends Dialogue With Palestinian Authority

JN2207181895 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has announced that it has broken off the dialogue it opened with 'Arafat's authority some time ago, in the aftermath of the authority's arrest campaign against the PFLP's leaders and cadres in Gaza Strip.

In a statement to the press, the PFLP said that the authority's arrest of a number of the front's cadres and leaders on 20 and 21 July, 1995, reflects the authority's policy and its compliance with the agreements it has reached with the Zionist government. At the same time, the authority ignores the interests of the Palestinian people, insists on militarizing society, spreads oppression, and strikes at the principles of democratic action.

The statement adds: While we strongly condemn mass and unjustified arrests, we reaffirm that we will continue our struggle to achieve the goals of our people. We also stress the right of our people to stage all forms of struggle to repulse the occupation from our lands and to achieve the goals of our people.

The PFLP's statement asserts that the front will struggle along with all militant forces and through the masses against all phenomena of oppression and violation of private and public freedoms in order to release all political prisoners. As the authority does not respect the rules of dialogue and out of our concern about democracy and our respect for the principles and unity of society, we announce that we have broken off the dialogue, which we began with the authority some time ago.

In its statement, the PFLP called for the immediate release of the members of the PFLP and for halting the campaign without any precondition or restriction.

PFLP Official: No Syrian Pressure on APF

JN2407104895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 24 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the political bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by Dr. George Habash, has said that Damascus did not exert any pressure against the Alliance of Palestinian [APF] Forces which opposes the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He said that Syrian policy is to avoid a clash with the Palestinian opposition.

He added that the PFLP is not boycotting the PLO institutions and that its withdrawal from the PLO Executive Committee came in response to the Oslo agreement. Malluh admitted the Palestinian opposition's failure to create a strong political program that would be received favorably by Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Asked about reports that the PFLP is going through an internal conflict on the Palestinian-Israeli peace agreement, Malluh said: For quite some time, there have been rumors surrounding the PFLP and a number of other opposition parties. [passage omitted]

He added that this is natural and that rumors we hear from time to time are intended to harm the PFLP's unity. He stressed that all the ongoing talk does not infringe on the PFLP's unity and that talk about its stand on the Oslo agreement is just a rumor and does not encroach on our unity and our position.

He said that the PFLP is reorganizing its state of affairs, noting that this is linked to the political stage and the gradual transfer of Palestinian decisionmaking to the occupied territories, the general situation surrounding the Palestinian state of affairs, and areas where there is Palestinian presence and difficult financial circumstances, in general, including the interruption of sup-

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port for many years. These factors prompted the PFLP to amend the status of its full time cadres.

Asked about whether this reorganization will include the military wing and if this means stopping military action, Malluh said: Yes, this reorganization dealt with some aspects of the military wing as it is natural to reduce the number of its forces, especially in light of the political developments surrounding the military situation in the region.

Here, he said, I would like to distinguish between the legitimacy of military action and the issue of reorganization in light of the current situation.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat, Aloni Discuss Deadline, Cooperation

JN2107105995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat met with Shulamit Aloni, Israeli minister of communications, science, and arts, at the Presidency in Gaza today. The meeting dealt with the latest developments of the peace process and the means of Palestinian-Israeli cooperation in all areas. President 'Arafat and Minister Aloni held a news conference following the meeting. Details in the following report: [Begin 'Adil al- Za'nun recording] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat said he hopes the Palestinian and Israeli sides will reach an agreement on 25 July on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles agreement. This came in a news conference held by President 'Arafat and Shulamit Aloni following their two-hour meeting at the Presidency in Gaza this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation. President 'Arafat described his talks with Aloni as successful. He added that Aloni is one of those who has worked for long to realize peace between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. He said that her bold support for the peace process deserves appreciation.

On the question of water, which is still an obstacle to current talks, President 'Arafat said that a committee is still discussing the water issue. He said that the topics were discussed in general, including the 25 July deadline.

On her part Aloni said: We discussed ways of mutual cooperation and making issues more tractable. She said that she will brief the Israeli Government on the results of her meeting with President 'Arafat. She noted that hardships are still there and that the aim is to relieve the burden on the residents. She added that discussions touched on cooperation in the educational and art fields and stepping up of Palestinian-Israeli meetings in the various fields. [end recording]

Israeli, Palestinian Officials Deny Tax Accord

TA2107124095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Shlomo Zezana and Hanan Schlein]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Security officials have termed the interpretation given to the understanding reached in the meeting between Civil Administration head David Shahaf and 'Atif 'Alawnah, a senior member of the Palestinian treasury, as "politically baseless."

The understanding was reached in Cairo on 21 June and it deals with, according to the coordinator of government activities in the territories, taxation procedures of Israeli-owned businesses in Judaea and Samaria. [passage omitted]

Senior Palestinian officials, including Sami al-Ramlawi, director general of the Palestinian Authority's Treasury, said that issues pertaining to the future of the residents of East Jerusalem would be raised by the Palestinians only at a later stage of the negotiations, in accordance with the Oslo agreement.

Israeli, Palestinian Officials Discuss Welfare

TA2407051495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] While the negotiations continue at the Dead Sea, Israel and the Palestinians have been discussing ways of cooperation in the field of welfare services. Israel's Minister of Labor and Welfare Ora Namir met at the Erez checkpoint with her Palestinian counterpart Umm-Jihad [Intisar al-Wazir]. This was the first official working session between the two. They have met twice before informally. Namir gave No'omi Segal her assessment of the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Namir] I think that the most important thing about the meeting was that it took place and this is part of the peace process. There are many, many issues to discuss, and we decided to meet again and to see whatever can be done so more Palestinians will come to work into Israel and the economic situation mostly in the Gaza Strip will be a better one, and then we will work together to assist each other to progress with the peace agreement.

[Segal] What specific issues were raised and what was the main concern of the Palestinians?

[Namir] Well, Umm-Jihad presented and started with the political issues. I, as the minister of labor and social affairs, mainly stated and concentrated in the welfare

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and labor issues. We discussed what can be done, so again I say, that more Palestinians will come and work in Israel, and I stressed that we face a very serious security problem — and I refer to the terror acts that took place in the past — while 'Arafat, at the same time, and the Palestinians face a very hard economic situation.

[Segal] Are there any concrete steps your ministry is taking or thinking about taking to deal with some of the issues that were raised today?

[Namir] Well, we are very willing to assist and to help. Whatever we will be asked to assist as far as labor, welfare, social security is concerned, we will willingly assist and do whatever we will be asked by Umm-Jihad and her colleagues at the Palestinian Authority. [end recording]

Syria 'Utterly Rejects' Early Warning Stations

MM2107123595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 Jul 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Syria Utterly Rejects Early Warning Stations"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus, London — Syria yesterday urged Israel to finally abandon its calls for the installation of an early warning station on Syrian territory as part of the Golan security arrangements. Informed sources in London said that security between Syria and Israel and in the region would be achieved as soon as Israel withdraws fully from the occupied Golan and southern Lebanon.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria's move towards peace was strategic and irrevocable and that is what constitutes the basis of security in the region, but the condition for that becoming a reality is that Israel reciprocate with a decision to withdraw fully. As regards security or other arrangements, they cannot detect what is planned in secret in the event of a confrontation or the intention to go to war.

The sources added that many security arrangements were made in the past but they failed to prevent wars or Israeli aggression. Peace is a decision and a commitment.

In Damascus, officials have emphasized that Syria would not accept early warning stations under any circumstance. They said that Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian ambassador to the United States, and Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli ambassador to the United States, would soon meet to discuss the situation between the two sides and that their meeting may result in a decision to hold a meeting of military experts to translate on the ground what is agreed on politically. [passage omitted]

According to official sources, Syria, during the meetings between the two sides, firmly rejected Israeli calls for the installation of early warning stations in the Golan and suggested aerial surveillance instead. One official said that "Israel's insistence on early warning stations on Syrian territory shows that Israeli intentions are inclined toward war, not peace."

Syria again urged Washington to persuade Israel to withdraw fully from the Golan and accept equal and balanced security arrangements.

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Algeria

Car Bomb Kills Five in Meftah

LD2507103095 Paris LCI Television in French 1000 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Violence escalates in Algeria. Five people were killed and seven were injured by a car bomb early yesterday afternoon in the town of Meftah, 37 km south of Algiers. Several houses were also damaged.

Security Services Eliminate 12 'Terrorists'

LD2407123795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement issued yesterday, the security services announced that their forces eliminated 12 terrorists during search operations in various parts of the country. The security forces also succeeded in recovering a quantity of weapons, including automatic machine guns of the Kalashnikov type, sawed-off shotguns, automatic guns, and stolen jewellery.

Wounded Italian Dies; Violence Continues

NC2407124095 Paris AFP in English 1209 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, July 24 (AFP)—A 48 year-old Italian man who was badly wounded in an attack in a working class suburb south of Algiers last week has died, the Italian embassy in Algiers said Monday [24 July].

Dino Fausti, manager of an import-export firm who was shot in an attack on July 17, will be repatriated Thursday to Italy following his death over the weekend, an embassy official said.

He was killed in the town of Kouba but the attack was never claimed and the motive was not known.

His death brings to 87 the total number of foreigners — 10 of them Italian — killed in incidents blamed on Islamic militants since Algeria's political crisis began in January 1992.

Meanwhile, LIBERTE newspaper reported Monday that 10 veterans of Algeria's war of independence, or mujahidin, had been assassinated over the past few days.

It also said that Islamic militants blew up a bridge overnight Saturday at Lakhdaria, 70 kilometres (43 miles) east of Algiers, a major link on the road between the capital and the east, the private newspaper reported.

LIBERTE said four mujahidin were taken from their homes at Souk El Tenine, in Kabylie, and had their throats cut. Four others were murdered at Drean, near Annaba in the east and two others near El Tarf, on the Tunisian border.

No official confirmation of the reports was available.

In 1994, 122 mujahidin were assassinated in attacks attributed to armed Islamic groups, official estimates show.

LIBERTE said the former war veterans were "mercilessly hunted because they are the vanguard of the resistance to Islamic armed groups", adding that they "are developing collaboration with security forces, which they help to flush out these groups, with their knowledge of the maquis and mountains."

They are particularly active in self-defence groups, and often form the skeleton of new district police forces.

The Lakhdaria bridge spans the Oued Isser river and is located at the mouth of the famous Lakhdaria gorges. Armed groups are very active in this region.

Last week, a key bridge on the route to Kabylie was destroyed at Isser, 60 kilometres (37 miles) east of Algiers. Other infrastructure targets, mostly bridges, have been sabotaged around the capital over the past few weeks.

LIBERTE said that armed groups may have been trying to isolate Algiers.

A recent upsurge of violence comes after security forces apparently made important gains over the last three months in the centre of Algiers and outlying suburbs.

In 1994, nearly 3,000 acts of sabotage were carried out, official figures show.

Algeria has been wracked by violence for three and a half years, after the authorities cancelled general elections which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. An estimated 30,000 people have been killed in the unrest.

Among the foreigners killed during this period, France — the former colonial power — has lost the highest number with 31 dead. In addition to the 10 Italians, the foreign victims have included: 12 Croatians, eight Russians, three Spanish, three Vietnamese, two Britons, two Belgians, two Belorussians, two Chinese, two Tunisians and one Canadian.

Party Blames Political Partners for Crisis

LD2207161695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Democratic Socialist Party [PNSD], in a statement issued today, has

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accused the political partners of causing the bottleneck to which the national dialogue has arrived.

The PNSD statement, which came at the end of a regional conference of the party held yesterday and today in Constantine, adds that the political partners' responsibility in getting the national dialogue to the bottleneck is reflected in their absence from the political scene, and thus they have abandoned their national duty. They also say that history will judge all those who have abandoned their responsibilities to this task.

The PNSD statement also refers to the presidential elections and salutes Head of State Liamine Zeroual for his brave initiative to return to the people in order to enjoy its legitimate right by expressing its opinion, and also to get the country out of the crisis of one-dimensional thinking to democratic pluralism.

Mauritanian President Arrives for 3-Day Visit

LD2407190295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya arrived in Algeria at noon today on a three-day official visit at the invitation of President Liamine Zeroual.

Zeroual, Abdelkader Bensalah, speaker of the transitional National Council, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, and other government officials were at the Houari Boumediene international airport to welcome him.

The Mauritanian delegation includes Foreign Minister Mohamed Salem Ould Lekhal, Finance Minister Sidi Mohamed Ould Biya, and other ministers.

At Houari Boumediene international airport, Taya said that his visit is aimed at holding talks with Zeroual on issues of mutual interest and at ways of strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between Algeria and Mauritania.

Soon after his arrival, the two heads of state held tete-a-tete private talks which will be expanded later on to include the delegations of the two countries.

To mention it in passing, the Algerian-Mauritanian relations are developing quite well nowadays as a result of consultations, coordination, open dialogue, and mutual good neighborly policy.

Egypt

Mubarak Sends Condolences to Weizman, Rabin

NC2407204795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Husni Mubarak sent two cables of condolence this evening to Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, expressing his sorrow for the terrorist incident that occurred in Tel Aviv today in which several innocent people were killed.

The text of the two cables follows:

President 'Ezer Weizman:

In these moments when some of your innocent citizens have been subjected to an evil assault that killed many and wounded others, I send my sincerest condolences to you and to the families of the dead and the wounded. I ask God to inspire all people to renounce violence and aggression and unite in backing the peace efforts that are trying to create a new situation in the region and achieve a comprehensive reconciliation that will end the conflict. I am sure that I do not need to stress to you the importance of safeguarding the peace process and continuing the negotiations, because the path of peace is the guarantee that violence and aggression will end and that we will move on to a situation where all efforts are directed toward reconstruction.

[Signed] Muhammad Husni Mubarak

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin:

We have received with sorrow and regret the news of the latest terrorist assault, which caused the deaths of many innocent people and wounded others. Such sinful actions should not hinder the quest for a comprehensive and just peace or block the negotiations that pursue a full reconciliation so that we can move the region to a new situation in which all its peoples will rid themselves of violence, hatred, and enmity. Indeed, these desperate actions must strengthen our resolve to further pursue our efforts to reach a just peace for the good of all the region's nations.

[Signed] Muhammad Husni Mubarak

Usamah al-Baz Discusses Bosnia, Peace Talks

NC2407200295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1907 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, reaffirmed that Egypt will accept nothing less than the lifting of the embargo imposed on Bosnia's Muslims since the United Nations and the European countries are incapable of halting the Serbian aggression against the Bosnian people.

This came in statements by Dr. al-Baz following his meeting tonight with a British House of Commons delegation led by Orwell Townsend.

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Dr. al-Baz accused the United Nations of being either incapable of or loath to expand its mandate and of not wanting to send a fighting force to fight on the ground. He said that the United Nations is merely content with threats of air strikes or with staging limited air strikes that have proved to be ineffective in deterring the Serbs from continuing their aggression and in stopping the Serbian forces' inhuman excesses and violations.

Dr. al-Baz rejected the European claims that lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia would increase the quantities of weapons reaching the Serbs and that this would intensify the fighting. He said: In our view, this is not reason enough for the world to stand idle and let the Serbs do what they are now doing to the Muslims.

He stressed that Egypt and all those interested in human rights are worried about the current situation in Bosnia. He said that Egypt holds that "the least that the world can do is to enable the Muslims to protect themselves, end the blatant violations of human rights, and put an end to the ethnic cleansing operations."

On the other hand, al-Baz said that Egypt hopes that the Palestinians and Israelis will reach an agreement very soon. He said that it will not mean the end of the road or of the negotiations if this agreement is delayed one or two days. He added that Egypt hopes that no incidents will happen in the coming days like the one that occurred in Tel Aviv today, which claimed the lives of several people, because such incidents only complicate the situation for the various parties and put the Israeli negotiators and government in a difficult position.

On the possibility of holding a Palestinian-Israeli-Egyptian meeting in Cairo, al-Baz said that there are no plans at this time to hold such a meeting unless Egypt is told tomorrow or the day after that the Palestinians and Israelis have failed to reach an agreement and need an active Egyptian role once again.

On King Husayn's visit to Egypt, Dr. al-Baz said that Egypt will receive King Husayn soon. He stressed that President Husni Mubarak welcomes the visit, which will fall within the framework of consultations with the Jordanian monarch on all shared issues. [passage omitted]

Papers Denounce Security Council Stance on Bosnia

NC2507073595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0505 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR, AL-AHRAM, and AL-JUMHURIYAH today denounce the Security Council and the international community's stance on Bosnia, describing it as slack and regrettable.

AL-AHRAM says in its editorial that the Security Council's stance on the Bosnian issue is astonishing, because resolutions have been passed but not implemented. This costs the international organization its significance and respect.

It adds that by doing this the Security Council is adopting a duplicitous policy. It notes that the Security Council has adopted strict positions toward Arab countries, such as Iraq and Libya, which proves that the Council follows duplicitous criteria on international issues. The paper calls for the international organization, represented by the big powers, to adopt a single policy on world issues so that it will not lose its credibility or the role for which it was founded.

AL-AKHBAR praises the strong warning by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on behalf of the Islamic Conference countries. The warning emphasizes that the Islamic countries will not agree to comply with resolutions banning arms shipments to Bosnia.

The paper stresses that arming the Bosnian people with equipment enabling them to confront the Serb gangs is not regarded as a violation of international resolutions; it is the righting of an unprecedented and unjust situation.

It says the ban on arms shipments to the Bosnian people is explicit participation in the conspiracy of ethnic cleansing. This ban has been imposed on a nation that is losing thousands of lives every day. It says that while weapons are being banned from reaching the victim, they are flowing freely to the Serbs, who have no conscience.

The paper expresses its hope that the Islamic countries will provide the Bosnian Army with weapons and money to expel the barbaric invading Serbs from Bosnian land. It emphasizes that the Muslims' blood will be saved only by Muslim weapons, which we hope will be sent urgently and with every means before it is too late.

AL-JUMHURIYAH appeals to the United States and the West to adopt a stricter stance on the Serbs, not to turn a blind eye to the Serbs' ethnic practices, and to allow weapons to be shipped to the Bosnian Muslims so that they can defend themselves.

The paper lauds the Islamic Contact Group's latest stance on the Bosnian tragedy. It says numerous Islamic countries have shown their desire to revoke the arms embargo on Bosnia to enable it to defend itself. The paper describes this decision as right and respectable.

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Libya

Reaction Reported to U.S. Claims of Security Threat

UN Investigation Requested

LD2407205795 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation held a news conference today attended by a number of the correspondents of Arab, foreign and national news agencies and newspapers, where he replied to questions asked by the journalists.

In the course of replying to questions, the brother secretary said that the Great Jamahiriyah will submit a request to the United Nations and the Security Council in the next few days to investigate the U.S. claims that Libya is a threat to U.S. national security and foreign policy.

On Russia's stance regarding that, the brother secretary said that the best proof of the falsehood of those claims was that the Great Jamahiriyah had good relations with the former Soviet Union and was still having good relation with the Russian Federation, which, by virtue of these relations, will be aware of whether Libya supported or had been setting up camps for terrorists, whether Libya possessed a huge arms arsenal stored for the Soviet Union, as claimed by the West, or whether Libya indeed is a threat to U.S. national security.

The brother secretary said that the Great Jamahiriyah is about to prepare a report on all the U.S. aggressions against Libya, and all the plots that it has hatched and is still hatching against Libya.

The report will also include all the covert actions and kidnapping and assassination attempts made by the United States against Libya, as well as numerous issues that many peoples of the world were ignorant about. He pointed out that the report will be circulated at an appropriate time after its completion.

In his reply to journalists' questions, the brother secretary commended the stances adopted by the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of Islamic Conference, and the Nonaligned Movement in support of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Official Briefs Diplomats, Denounces U.S.

LD2407224295 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Secretariat of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation today summoned the heads of Arab and foreign missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah and the U.N. resident representative to the Great Jamahiriyah.

'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, brother secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, briefed the heads of political missions on the report submitted by U.S. President Clinton to the U.S. Congress, in which he had said that Libya still constituted a threat to the U.S. national security and foreign policy.

The brother secretary stressed that the resolution included in Clinton's report was a purely American resolution and not an international resolution as the United States had claimed, because the United States issued that resolution in 1986 while the so-called UN Security Council resolutions were issued in 1990's.

The brother secretary said the statement made in the aforementioned report that the Jamahiriyah still constituted an exceptional [istithna'i] and unusual [ghayr 'adi] threat to U.S. national security and foreign policy was ridiculous.

He said: Is this not comical and a joke? The Jamahiriyah — a small country with a population of 4.5 million and 5,000 miles away from the United States — is a threat to biggest power in the world? Is this not a joke?

He said that we did not go to the U.S. coast, but the U.S. Sixth Fleet roamed the Mediterranean.

He asked at whom were the NATO's missiles aimed. He said that Russia was no longer a power equal to the United States for those missiles to be aimed at it.

The brother secretary said that resolution was issued on the basis of false and fabricated U.S. claims, pointing out in particular the U.S. claims about the explosion at the Berlin night club. He said that we had followed up how German investigations into that incident proved Libya's innocence of the claims, as a result of which the Jamahiriyah was subjected to a barbaric U.S.- NATO attack in 1986.

Brother secretary of the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation said that all are aware and all know who removed Allendy and who threatened Castro and who tried to assassinate 'Abd al-Nasir. The list goes on and on. America does not recognize the right of the peoples to defend themselves or to protect their borders. Consequently the Great Jamahiriyah will demand from the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly to investigate these allegations which say that Libya threatens America's national security and America's foreign policy. If it were

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proved in the investigation that Libya was guilty, then we would be ready to accept any penalties to be imposed by the UN Security Council.

He explained that those whom America used to describe as terrorists like Yasir 'Arafat and before him Nelson Mandela and Robert Mugabi and Sam Nujoma, who all had been backed by Libya during the wars to liberate their countries, have today become heads of state and they have been received by the White House. He pointed out that the last of the ones whom we had been accused of supporting, namely the IRA, they today sit with English government ministers. All know that we had cooperated with the English Government on this matter.

He said that despite all that the Great Jamahiriyah had done in the way of cooperation on implementing the UN Security Council resolution No. 731 and the resolutions of the international organizations, America and its allies still refuse to respond to solve this issue despite the stands of support and backing and the resolutions which had been issued by international and regional organizations, the last of which was the resolution of the OAU in Addis Ababa. The text of the resolution clearly said that if it were necessary, the two suspects can be interrogated and tried in a neutral country and the unjust sanctions on the Libyan people be lifted. Also what had been issued at the recent ministerial meeting of the non-aligned states in Bandung and the resolution which had been issued at the end of last year by the Islamic summit conference supporting and backing the Great Jamahiriyah. [sentence as heard]

The brother external liaison secretary said that most of the countries in the world had issued resolutions in support of Libya, but due to the dominance of the concerned Western states in the Security Council and the United Nations those resolutions had been ignored and blatantly discarded. Most of the countries in the world had been plagued by double standards, whereby the UN resolutions were being applied only to Arab and Islamic states. The best proof of that were the resolutions passed against Israel, nothing of which had been implemented. Moreover, the veto had been used to block even a condemnation.

The brother secretary asked whether it was a specific policy with a specific aim, a hidden malice for some purpose or an implementation of the U.S. Navy anthem, which is known to all.

The brother secretary said: I believe that history is repeating itself. The events of the four-year war are not so distant and we can still remember them and we will not forget them, when Libyans resisted U.S. occupation [as heard].

The brother secretary went on to say: We have not threatened the United States in the past, nor are we threatening it now, but we will defend our rights whatever the cost. Consequently, the United States must have respect for itself and assess events and facts as they are and not for specific purposes.

The brother secretary said: The Great Jamahiriyah is prepared to discuss any problem, and it does not behave like children.

At the end of his statement, he requested that they conveyed all that to their governments, which were well aware of that and many of which had issued resolutions and had adopted stances in support of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Bosnian Muslims Should Not Seek Own State

LD2407152995 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1156 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, July 24 (TANJUG) — Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has said that Bosnian Muslims should not seek an independent state, because they are not masters of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The interest of Bosnian Muslims is to stay in a unified Yugoslavia and not in the fighting between Bosnian Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic and Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, al-Qadhdhafi told reporters in his tent near the city of Surt, 450 km south of Tripoli.

Al-Qadhdhafi said that the war in Bosnia resulted from combinations in which Muslim states blindly followed the policy of their Western masters and that it could not be ended with a foreign intervention.

The Libyan leader invited Karadzic to prevent ethnic persecutions, saying that the inhabitants of Bosnia "are all slavs, including Muslims. They are all Yugoslavs," according to the REUTER news agency.

Al-Qadhdhafi directly accused Germany of wanting "to rebuild the Fourth Reich at the expense of Yugoslavia" and the United States of wanting "to be present in the area to prevent Russia from being there alone."

Coordination With Egypt Prevents 'Infiltration'

MM2407153795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jul 95 p 6

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Egyptian-Libyan Security Coordination To Prevent Infiltration of Extremists"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — Libya has taken strict security measures on its borders with Egypt and Sudan as a precaution against infiltration of extremist elements

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from these two countries. These measures come after the announcement that the perpetrators of the recent Banghazi incidents were fundamentalist extremists who infiltrated Libya from Sudan and Egypt.

Libyan diplomatic sources in Cairo have told AL-HAYAH that there is Egyptian-Libyan coordination against infiltration as well as exchange of information on fugitive extremists from Egypt, bearing in mind that Libya allows Arab nationals to enter Libya without a prior entry visa.

Opposition Group Says 'Confrontations' Continuing

MM2407150195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 22 Jul 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Movement for Change and Reform: Confrontations in Libya Continuing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Libyan opposition Movement for Change and Reform [MCR] has declared that information received from Libya "indicates that the confrontations between citizens opposed to the regime and the revolutionary committee's organs of repression are continuing in various parts of the country and that in a simultaneous indiscriminate arrest campaign hundreds of people have been thrown into prison on mere suspicion of opposition or disloyalty to the regime."

The movement saw "these events as a natural development and an integral part of the Libyan people's struggle against the regime of despotism and terrorism, and they will certainly continue and will not stop so long as that regime continues to be in charge in Libya and so long as it continues to deny the Libyan people their right to control their own fate and determine their own political future." It said: "We emphasize in this connection that full responsibility falls on the shoulders of the regime which refuses to give the people their usurped rights back and leaves the Libyans no option other than force for the fulfillment of their legitimate aspirations."

It also said that "the various claims the regime tries to spread about the current events throughout the country, such as the claim that the young people facing the regime are a small group, or that they are infiltrators from abroad, or have foreign links, are false claims. The aims of such claims are clear and exposed. (Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar) al-Qadhdhafi is feverishly trying to promote the idea that Libya is threatened by what the West calls 'the Islamic fundamentalist extremist march,' and to prove that he is the one who can best protect Libya from that danger and prevent its spread and consolidation in the region."

Mauritania

Six Opposition Parties Adopt Common Platform

AB2407223595 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Mauritania, the opposition is waging a struggle to gain power. Six opposition political parties have announced that they have adopted a common platform for a democratic transition. Among them are the leading opposition parties, Ahmed Ould Daddah's Union of Democratic Forces, and Hamdy Ould Mouknass' Union for Democracy and Progress. They have denounced the government's policy which, in their words, has led to the economic and moral decline of the state. They are calling for an accurate voters register, the formulation of a consensual electoral code, guarantees [illegible]udicial independence, and impartiality on the part of the administration. I would now like you to listen to one of the signatories to the platform, Dr. Mahmoud Ould Mah of the Socialist and Democratic Popular Union.

[Begin recording] [Mah] First, the signatories denounce the policy of this regime, which is responsible for the economic and moral decline of the State;

2. Call for the respect of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution;

3. Hold the government responsible for the economic and social crisis, and all the problems which may result from it;

4. Condemn the unilateral management of the democratic process by the only party in power, and the massive fraud which characterizes its management such as the refusal to register opposition members, and to issue them with voter cards, the issuing of multiple voter cards to members of the ruling party, [words indistinct], the swapping of election reports and so on;

5. Declare that we adopt this present platform in order to guarantee transparency and fairness in the next elections by compiling a voters register in conjunction with the opposition, by promulgating a consensual electoral code, by guaranteeing judicial independence, by ensuring the neutrality of the administration, by granting access of state media — radio, television and newspapers — to all political players, and by ensuring that an adequate number of international observers are present for an adequate period of time during the next elections. [end recording]

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Morocco

King Calls On Clinton To Drop Bosnia Embargo

LD2407215095 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Jul 95

["Text" of a letter from King Hassan II to U.S. President Bill Clinton dated 18 July]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. President and great friend,

I am sending you this letter in my own name and in my capacity as current chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference. This letter draws its justification from the tragic deterioration of the situation in Bosnia—Herzegovina. The tragedy of Srebrenica, which we are witnessing these days, is threatening the entire country with a disaster. As you know, the Serbs entered this area, which is under UN protection and which had been demilitarized in accordance with a UN recommendation, with a strong military force. In view of this, the Serb aggressors despised and humiliated—as they have done on several occasions before—not only the United Nations but also the superpower guaranteeing the situation in Srebrenica. [as heard]

The local Muslim population was subjected to persecution and physical torture as the Serbs threw out our women, children, and elderly people from the homes in which they had lived for so long, whereas the men, whose ages range between 16 and 60, were taken to detention camps.

This constitutes the worst human tragedy since World War II. The Serbs of Pale, backed by Milosevic's regime which supplies them with technical and human support, are currently launching their attacks around the areas of Zepa and Gorazde, which are also under UN protection. As for Bihac and Sarajevo, they are subjected to increasing pressure.

This tragic situation occurred as a result of the arms embargo imposed on a country which is the victim of an aggression and which is a member of the United Nations.

Furthermore, Mr. President, I would like to say personally that the arms embargo imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovina is in itself illegal and immoral. It is also an unacceptable action which has had a destructive effect on life in Bosnia and on the future of its people. Moreover it is incompatible with the principle entrenched by the Declaration of Independence which said that all men were born equal and that their creator had given them inalienable rights, including the right to life, freedom, and happiness.

I understand fully the reservations expressed by your administration regarding the lifting of the arms embargo; however, the international community must, under the circumstances, protect Bosnia. We do not have the right to deprive a country, which is the victim of an aggression, of the means to defend itself. This is what we have done and we must now make a choice.

Mr. President and great friend: I would be grateful if you would reconsider this problem which affects a remote and sparsely-populated country but which concerns the entire international community and threatens the fundamental principles on which the international order is based.

The Muslim world is extremely concerned about Bosnia's fate and a decisive stand taken by you in the defense of the legitimate rights of this country and its people can only earn you the friendship and respect of all the Muslims of the world. Such a stand will also be in the interest of your great nation for many years to come.

Please accept, Mr. President and great friend, our highest esteem and the expression of our sincere friendship. Your loyal friend King Hassan II. Written in Rabat on 18 July 1995 [date as heard].

Unemployed Scientists Protest to Government

95AF0076A Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 27 Apr 95 pp 18, 19

[Article by Bahia Amrani: "Ph.D. in Unemployment"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Morocco: They are nuclear doctors, biologists, and geologists. There are 200,000 of them who cannot find work. And they are letting the world know.*

For three days (19-21 April), between 0800 and 2000, 65 young men with doctorates in science have been occupying the National Higher Education Union headquarters in Rabat, where they have been conducting a hunger strike! Mohamed, 37 years old, holds a doctorate in electrochemistry and has his degree from the University of Paris. Married and with one child, he has been unemployed for four years and is at his wits end when it comes to feeding his small family. His debts are mounting: 60,000 dirhams (37,000 French francs). Hassan, 27, holds a doctorate in mechanical physics awarded by the University of Metz. To complete his studies, he took out a 70,000-dirham (43,000 French francs) bank loan that he was already supposed to start repaying seven months ago, but he does not know how he'll do it. He has no job. He is married and he is living off his father-in-law, a worker of modest income.

All the others are more or less in the same boat. They are nuclear physicists, biologists, or geologists; they

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are between the ages of 27 and 38; and they have no jobs and face huge difficulties. During their two to four years of unemployment, they have sought work at every university and agency that could be interested in their areas. They have knocked on every door. In vain.

One month ago, for the first time, a member of the government listened to them. But, Driss Khalil, the Minister of Higher Education, Cadres Training, and Scientific Research, merely asked for their files. Having grown tired of waiting, they organized a protest movement: It would consist of a hunger strike and a letter to the prime minister. They are asking that a dialogue be started to find a solution to their problems. They are the same problems that many other young unemployed university graduates are experiencing.

There are some 200,000 of them, and they have founded an association that is barely tolerated: the Association of Unemployed Moroccan University Graduates. It held its constituent congress in 1990 in Casablanca at the Democratic Labor Confederation [CDT]'s headquarters, similar to the USFP [Socialist Union of Popular Forces]). In Morocco, young people are generally close to opposition parties or labor unions.

Besides, it is the offices of these parties and labor unions that are housing their activities (the association has its permanent office at the CDT). They have never been authorized to organize an independent demonstration.

In Front of Parliament

That has not stopped the association, which has chapters in the main cities, from organizing, as it did last year in front of Parliament, protest days and sit-ins, which have always been broken up by the police.

All of the unemployed university graduates' demands can be summed up in one word: a job. "The authorities should recognize," one member of the association said, "our right to work, which the constitution, guarantees to every Moroccan. We believe we're the victims of their policy. The government hasn't had any jobs strategy. It hasn't been able to come up with the right formula for training and employment. Today we find there's more supply than demand. Thousands of university graduates are out there, useless to society. We're a burden to everyone, but we're the only ones who pay the price."

The 65 strikers in Rabat are not members of the Association of Unemployed University Graduates. They even say they are ready, if the government does not start talking to them, to set up their own association that will represent unemployed university graduates with degrees in science.

But the problems of all these young graduates are identical. There are some 180,000 of them who pour out onto the labor market each year. Now neither the government nor the private sector is able to absorb this new work force.

Since it faced problems in the early 1980's, Morocco had to accept a structural adjustment program (SAP). After 10 years of budgetary austerity imposed by the IMF, the country completed the first part of the program successfully in 1993. But it continues to feel the social fallout from the SAP. With the drought aggravating economic imbalances, the state is less and less a supplier of jobs. For example, the 1994 finance bill, which anticipated creating 25,000 budgeted jobs, only created 11,600, and 1995's [bill] reduced its forecast to only 12,702 jobs (and implementing this is uncertain, given poor harvests and keeping in mind the fact that creating one budgeted job costs 200,000 dirhams). As for the private sector, it cannot close the gap. According to a study done by the National Youth and Future Council (CNJA), it is already the main employer, creating as it does each year between 100,000 and 180,000 jobs, all sectors taken together. Since the crisis brings about restrictions at every level, prospects also shrink for private businesses.

The labor situation has worsened markedly in recent years. According to the Moroccan Economic Center (headed up by the CNJA's secretary general, Habib Malki), the unemployment rate, which was 13.9 percent in 1985, rose to 15.9 percent in 1993, and the rate for university graduates, which was 8.3 percent, rose to 18.7 percent during the same period. Given such a worsening, the state tried to react. A Youth and Future Council was established in July 1990 to think about unemployment problems and initiate a process of consulting with various segments of society—every element of Moroccan society being represented on it. But it is not the CNJA's mission to create jobs. It plays the role of an economic and social council, something the young unemployed university graduates do not always understand.

For them the only thing that matters is the creation of new jobs. The CNJA's secretary general has received the Association of Unemployed University Graduates and passed their demands along, but the organization is not represented on the Council. Having analyzed the situation, the CNJA is advocating a jobs policy based on a more modern management of the labor market and on restoring businesses. By decreeing 1995 to be the year of the business, the CNJA hopes to encourage young people to get jobs on their own by inviting them to establish their own business. But there too it is not understood. By a royal decision, a special one-billion-

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dirham allocation fund was set up in 1994 (which was increased by 10 percent in 1995). The decision was accompanied by a reform of [legal] texts pertaining to the conditions for getting young promoter's credit. Henceforth, up to the age of 45, a promoter can get upwards of 90 percent of the financing for his project—with one-half being financed by the state, the other by banks. But the 10-percent personal contribution problem remains. The fund has its advantages. Furthermore it favors job promotion in rural areas. Yet the young university graduates' problem is still acute.

One Rabat striker cried out: "We do not want to set up a research center or a nuclear power plant. We just want a job that pays."

Sudan

Al-Turabi Discusses Mubarak, Islam, United States

BR2407140395 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish 24 Jul 95 p 20

[Interview with religious leader Hasan al-Turabi by Javier Mellado in Khartoum; date not given: "Only Islam Opposes Universal Power Which United States Wishes To Wield" — first paragraph is EL MUNDO introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum — Hasan al-Turabi, Sudan's religious leader and the Islamic regime's real strongman, is accused of being behind the attack on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. This man "enlightened" by God, as he defines himself, succeeded in turning the African country into an Islamic state following the coup staged by General Umar Hasan al-Bashir.

[Mellado] Did Sudan take part in the attack on Mubarak in any way?

[Al-Turabi] No. It has been proved that it was his own people who tried to kill him. The fact is that Sudan and I myself are currently the international champions of the Islamic revival, and this causes some people to see us behind everything that is done in the world in the name of Islam.

[Mellado] Why do you believe they tried to kill Mubarak?

[Al-Turabi] Mubarak has many domestic problems and is trying to divert attention. Right now, everybody knows that the country does not work, that the regime is corrupt, that there is considerable instability, and that there is no freedom of expression, especially for the Islamic groups. Mubarak remains his master's voice, and tries to tie the Islam's hand and foot.

[Mellado] Would it have been a good thing for Egypt if Mubarak had died in the attack?

[Al-Turabi] As a Muslim, I am opposed to violence, but Mubarak is not a man whom Egypt has anything to thank for. An Egypt without Mubarak would never be worse than with him.

[Mellado] Is it true that Sudan harbors Islamic terrorist groups?

[Al-Turabi] Those are U.S. fabrications. It is a clumsy campaign which has never been able to base itself on evidence. The fact is that we are a country open to all the Muslims in the world, and the United States regards all Muslims as enemies.

[Mellado] So you do not support the radical Islamic groups?

[Al-Turabi] Sudan is a poor country, and so it is difficult for us to be able to help them. Our only support consists in serving them as an example. The way in which we help the Islamic groups is by pointing out to them the path to follow.

[Mellado] Are you in favor of using force to ensure that Islam triumphs?

[Al-Turabi] It runs counter to the Koran's injunctions, but if others take the initiative for aggression, then we have a duty to defend ourselves; to undertake a jihad, the struggle to defend Islam.

[Mellado] Do you believe that Islam is currently at war?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. Against its attackers, led by the imperialist powers — chiefly the United States and Israel.

[Mellado] Is Islam the solution to the world's problems?

[Al-Turabi] We are convinced that this is so. Islam is synonymous with submission, devotion...with living and serving God. We Muslims must struggle to ensure that the world lives in accordance with the divine injunctions, but not through force but through dialogue.

[Mellado] Are you in favor of all the Islamic countries applying the shari'ah — the Islamic law?

[Al-Turabi] Of course. It is not I who says so; the Koran says so.

[Mellado] Is Iran the model to follow?

[Al-Turabi] Not entirely. Iran is on the right road, but it managed to become an Islamic republic through a revolution, and revolutions are too tied to their slogans, too concerned with burying the former regime. The model to follow is Sudan, which has become an Islamic republic through a gradual evolution of society.

[Mellado] Are you not afraid of Sudan's international isolation?

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[Al-Turabi] No. Sudan is not isolated — far from it. Most of the Arab and African peoples admire us. It is just some governments which wish to isolate us, but there are many friends, such as Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Morocco.., although undoubtedly the country which cooperates most closely with Sudan is China.

[Mellado] And who are your enemies?

[Al-Turabi] In the first place, the United States, as a great imperialist power, followed by all its acolytes, such as Israel. Imperialism views us as the sole danger, regards Sudan as a country which has been able to leave its orbit, to be really independent. Following the fall of Communism, Islam is the only force that opposes the universal power which U.S. imperialism wishes to wield, and they do not forgive us for this.

[Mellado] Does it worry you that the United States has included Sudan on the list of terrorist countries?

[Al-Turabi] We are proud to be on the U.S. black list. It is a list of honor. The United States is a country founded on violence, based on the cowboy spirit, and let those who do not believe it watch U.S. television or cinema, where what predominates is violence. The United States is in no position to give anybody lessons in human rights. The United States, Israel, and all their friends are the real terrorists in the present day world.

[Mellado] Is Sudan destined to save the world?

[Al-Turabi] We are the spearhead of a movement which must free the world from the moral turpitude and atheism in which it is living.

[Mellado] What is Sudan doing to extend Islam?

[Al-Turabi] We feel assisted in this task by God, and believe that it is our foremost duty, but never by using force. Dialogue is the way. Dialogue and setting an example are our weapons for Islamicizing society. Our duty is to extend God's voice to all corners and imbue all aspects of society, including the political aspect, with respect for God.

[Mellado] What is bad about the multiparty system and democracy?

[Al-Turabi] The political parties are traps for hunting votes which ensure the wielding of power for a few people's benefit. The parties (and this also happens in Europe) do not defend but use the people. In Sudan we have had several periods of a multiparty system, but there has never been real democracy. Now there is. Now the people take part directly and freely both in choosing their leaders and in decisionmaking. It is a system based on the "shura"; on participation through the people's assemblies, which are the real essence of democracy.

[Mellado] Do you consider yourself a revolutionary?

[Al-Turabi] Completely. Revolutionary, not in the sense of storming political power but of being a fighter for change in society, always with God as a guide. Revolutionary insofar as I do not resign myself to witnessing as a spectator the decadence of a world which lives paying no heed to God, and I struggle for his light to illuminate the lives of people in my country and in the rest of the world.

Minister Sets Conditions for Talks With Rebels

EA2407165095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The president of the Republic, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has reiterated Sudan's firm stand to establish peace in the south within the framework of a united Sudan. He praised the efforts of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in this regard. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din Atabani, the minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, referred to Carter's efforts to halt the bloodshed in the south. He said: The extension of the cease-fire and the commencement of serious talks with the rebel factions are conditional on the release of 72 persons detained by the rebel movement.

[Nairobi DAILY NATION in English on 24 July adds: "Mr. Atabani said the two main obstacles to an extension of the truce were what he said were the continued detention by the SPLA — Sudan People's Liberation Army — of 72 pro-government Sudanese captured by rebels earlier this year and the start of peace talks between the two sides."]

Anti-Serbian Demonstration Held in Khartoum

EA2407170095 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, 24 Jul (SUNA) — The popular organization for supporting Bosnia-Herzegovina Muslims staged here this morning a procession comprised the participation of many occupational organizations, trade unions and popular sectors denouncing the unjust Serbian aggression against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the ban against the provision of weapons to the Serbians to defend themselves.

Thousands of people gathered in the Martyrs' Square in downtown Khartoum, near the Republican Palace, calling slogans denouncing the UN, the Security Council acts and the Serbian aggression against the Bosnians. The procession then moved to the UN's premises in

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Khartoum where a denouncing memo was submitted to the offices to be handed to the UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

It is to mention that the popular organization for supporting Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a popular Sudanese organization established to provide kind and spiritual support to the Muslim Bosnians.

Former President Interviewed on Political Issues

95LD0083A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Jun 95 p 5

[Interview with former President Ja'far Numayri by Hamdi Rizq in Cairo; date not given: "Hala'ib Is Egypt's; al-Mahdi's Arrest Is a Farce Orchestrated by al-Turabi" — first three paragraphs are AL-HAYAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Former Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has attacked most of the Sudanese leaders in power and in the opposition, saying in an interview with AL-HAYAH that the Hala'ib border triangle, over which Egypt and Sudan are in conflict, is Egyptian territory, which the government of President 'Umar al-Bashir and the government of former Prime Minister 'Abdallah Khalil (of the Ummah Party) are exploiting for other reasons.

In the opinion of Numayri, who was toppled by a popular uprising in 1985, the recent arrest of former Prime Minister al-Sayyid al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is a "farce" orchestrated with his brother-in-law, leader of the National Islamic Front, Dr. Hasan al-Turabi. He asserted the existence of an agreement between these two men. It is his belief that the Front "wants to hand over power to al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and no one else, because he is involved with them and will not expose them." He described the ministers of the Unionist Party as "thieves who have stolen the people's food. It would be better not to work with them." He explained, however, that supporters of the president of the Democratic Unionist Party, the leader of the Khatmi sect, were "the base and soldiers of May"—the period of his rule, which began with a military coup of 25 May 1969.

Numayri explained that there have been contacts with the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Sudan and its leader, Colonel John Garang, regarding the former's appeal one year ago for a solution to Sudan's problems. He expressed his belief that the southerners were not serious in their call for secession.

The text of the interview follows:

[Rizq] Have their been consultations following your appeal to arrive at a formula through which the Sudanese opposition can meet?

[Numayri] There are individual consultations, letters, and telephone contacts, but thus far we have not had the good luck to hold a single meeting because we are dealing with difficulties in the process of gathering the ranks of the opposition. The chief difficulty is where to meet. Which country will embrace the opposition so it may consult on a globally recognized system? It will cause great difficulty for that country in its relations with the Sudanese regime. The second thing is how we can bring these people together, especially as most Sudanese abroad have no money and are widely dispersed. How can we gather them together from their places of residence in African, Arab, and European countries?

"The Whole Opposition Doesn't Want Me"

[Rizq] Why don't you add to this list of difficulties the Sudanese opposition forces' opposition to Numayri as the leader of a new phase, given your past tenure in power?

[Numayri] That difficulty is theirs, not mine. Numayri made the appeal; how they respond to it or what their stand is on it are their problems, not Numayri's problem. On the contrary, it is not the whole opposition that doesn't want me, and all the people in Sudan are awaiting the return of the May Revolution. Our brothers who are veterans of that May in Sudan tell us of popular persistence in demanding Numayri's return.

[Rizq] So do you have a plan to return?

[Numayri] Actually, there is a plan based on peaceful action, despite the people's readiness to take up arms to force my return, but my idea is that the use of violent means would harm our nation and a war that would be easy to start would be hard to end, given Sudan's geography and its ethnic composition.

[Rizq] Is there no action by the May people in the Sudanese Army?

[Numayri] This is what I do not choose to discuss now; it is a secret.

[Rizq] You have had contacts with the Garang-led Popular Movement for the Liberation of Sudan, to lead to an understanding on bringing down the regime. What results have these consultations yielded?

[Numayri] There are contacts with Garang and his movement. They are largely successful contacts and will bear fruit in the very near future, especially as the May position on the south was an honorable one.

[Rizq] Is it sufficient to recall the Addis Ababa agreement to eliminate all the disputes between you and Garang?

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[Numayri] There is no problem between me and Garang, and nothing has helped him like the May Revolution. I sent him to get his doctorate in the United States. The Addis Ababa agreement in which we gave him the south was an excellent beginning. What has gone on with Garang since then was merely a misunderstanding and the attempt of some friendly Arab countries to intervene and bring down the May government.

[Rizq] Have you promised the southerners some kind of secession or independence for the south in exchange for their cooperation with you in toppling the present government?

[Numayri] I do not believe they are serious in their appeal for the secession of the south. I think it is some sort of political pressure—I mean some sort of political game—nothing more. They want a united Sudan but are calling for secession to get the cause of the south moving.

[Rizq] Has Garang promised to work with you?

[Numayri] That is still the subject of negotiation and consultation. Contacts have also included the Nubian Front active in the Nubian Mountains, which also suffer from the corruption of the partisan and Islamic governments. We have also had contacts with a number of clandestine organizations in the east, west, and north, all of which are working to bring down this regime.

[Rizq] And relations with al-Sayyid Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, president of the Democratic Unionist Party and patron of the Khatmi sect?

[Numayri] I have no direct contact with al-Mirghani, though his supporters are still the base and soldiers for May, though I have had reservations about any sectarian or partisan rule coming to power in Sudan.

My goal is for the Sudanese to rule themselves by themselves, not on any sectarian, denominational, or religious basis. This was my difference with al-Mirghani.

[Rizq] What was the proposal al-Mirghani made to you through his envoys?

[Numayri] We have common goals. He wants to topple the regime, eliminate this situation, and develop Sudan, and those are my goals as well. It has been proven, however, that his ministers are thieves who have stolen the people's food and public funds. I will not permit this sort of employee in Sudan. If they want to go back to the way they behaved in the days of the alliance with al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, then I have nothing to do with them. It would be better not to work with them. Honesty is the most important thing to me, and that is the problem I have with them.

[Rizq] And al-Sadiq al-Mahdi?

[Numayri] We have had no contact with one another because I am convinced al-Sadiq is a liar and is misleading people. I said that when I was in power. I even have doubts about the truth of what is said about his arrest. I assert there is an agreement with al-Turabi, who had him arrested. It is just a farce the world is watching.

[Rizq] What kind of "agreement" is it?

[Numayri] The Front wants to hand over power to al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and no one else because its fall is now imminent. The leaders want no change that will expose them to the masses. They want the alternative to be al-Mahdi because he is mixed up with them and will not expose them. My proof is that the Front is al-Turabi's base, and he is married to al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's sister. Al-Sadiq is the uncle of al-Turabi's children, and those children are involved in a great deal of corruption. Will al-Sadiq take action to expose his sister's children? Naturally there is doubt he would do anything to them and that is why he was nominated to succeed him.

[Rizq] How does the Front benefit from arresting al-Mahdi and inciting international public opinion against Sudan, making President 'Umar al-Bashir appear to be a dictator in arresting his opponents?

[Numayri] It benefits by not having its leaders crimes exposed, especially as they are going to relinquish power very soon. They need cover to prevent them from having problems in the future, so they cleared the way for this liar and misleading person to be made into a hero. Where was the heroism of this al-Sadiq when Bashir took over? Didn't al-Sadiq shave his face and his head when he sniffed Numayri's coup in the air? They want him to be a hero, but his exposure before public opinion and their little piece of theater is known to all.

[Rizq] What about your relations with al-Turabi?

[Numayri] I have had no relations with al-Turabi since coming here, but al-Bashir's government tried to contact me; they tried more than 20 times. They sent me envoys of various types to convince me to return to Sudan. I told them my conditions, but they did not agree to them.

I told them I am ready to return to Sudan if all my family and loved ones are freed from detention. They said "No one from your family is detained." I told them that I meant every Sudanese in detention, for when I was in power there was not one person detained without trial. Another condition was the elimination of the "ghost houses" in which detainees are tortured. My third condition was that the Front is a party and I do not want parties in power. If you will remain a party, I said, then open the door to other parties so that power

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can be shared. They told me: "We are not a party." I told them: "You are a religious party, and al-Bashir is the commander of the military wing of the Front." The envoys went away and others came in their place; every time, I gave them these conditions.

[Rizq] Why have you not taken advantage of your good relations with al-Turabi to clear the air between you and al-Bashir?

[Numayri] Al-Turabi is a good, intelligent man, but he is a cheat. I appointed him minister of justice and discovered that he was trying to fill the jobs at the Ministry with Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members, after getting rid of the May Revolutionists. This was done through their work contracts abroad, to shake up the Ministry and make it dependent on the MB. I knew this and made ministerial changes, making him an assistant to the president. I kept him without work for two months. When we adopted the Islamic laws of September, he said: "When did Numayri become a Muslim?" I told him: "I became a Muslim today, and Islam requires this." The MB intervened to settle the dispute and that was not of our relations. I learned the lesson of his meaning, that al-Turabi was a deceiver; it was impossible to trust him or work with him.

[Rizq] Where did al-Turabi get all his power? How do you assess the strength of the Front in Sudan?

[Numayri] He is intelligent, and he saw Sudan was a Muslim country. He appealed to the Front and deceived all the sects and took advantage of them, and then abandoned them. They dismissed him and left him with his military wing. Turning to the power of the MB, it has no more than 50,000 members, perhaps 100,000 maximum. The secret of their power lies in their organization and their ability to assemble.

The Communist Party, for example, never had more than 12,000 members, but because it was well organized, it was everywhere. In Sudan now, everyone and his brother is growing beards, giving the impression that the Front enjoys massive support, but not every bearded man is with the MB. Most of them have grown beards so they will be left alone.

[Rizq] Are there military camps for Arab extremists on Sudanese soil?

[Numayri] I have not gone to Sudan or sent agents there, as I do not have that ability. I am told by my envoy there that Sudan is not sheltering extremists to the extent that is alleged, but young 16 year olds are being trained in the camps of the Popular Defense Army with slogans having to do with jihad. Egyptians are not being trained to fight in Egypt, but if there is an Egyptian, he may join one of these camps. I mean, they are not bringing Egyptians in for training, but the camps are open to all, including Egyptians.

[Rizq] What dissidents say about the coming fall of the regime seems illusory, as the government has lasted six years. Do you attribute that to the strength of the Front or the weakness of the opposition?

[Numayri] Neither to the weakness of the opposition nor to the strength of the Front. Regrettably, the question of Sudan has become internationalized, linked to global affairs. Those involved will be the ones who determine when the Front will fall; in the practical sense, it fell four years ago. Its actual fall is now in the hands of forces concerned with presenting the Front as strong and cohesive.

[Rizq] Your appeal spoke of the toppling of the Front but not of what will follow it.

[Numayri] The appeal did not speak of what will follow the Front, but it put the matter in the hands of the masses, who will decide who governs them. How? We leave that to the dialogue for which we are calling.

[Rizq] Has there been any contact between you and the communists in this regard?

[Numayri] There are no contacts because I do not think I need them. They did not respond to the appeal because Faruq Abu-'Isa (secretary general of the Federation of Arab Lawyers) and his sort know the falsehood of what is said about the May Revolution because they are behind it. I met him only once, by chance, and we did not speak. We are still in conflict.

"I Finished Them Off"

[Rizq] What was behind this conflict?

[Numayri] I thwarted them in Sudan and finished them off. They had no intention of working. They want power centers and positions. They were looking out for themselves, not for the interests of the people of Sudan. Like the Front, they excel at using the media as a tool. We educated them abroad and they imported communist theories or Khomeynist ones for us. I do not take them into consideration at all.

[Rizq] And the army commanders abroad, such as retired Lieutenant General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali?

[Numayri] There are no contacts and no need for any; they have no role. In my work I concentrate on the May commanders and those who support and rally around the banners of May.

[Rizq] Did you not seek the support of countries to speed up your return?

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[Numayri] No, I have sought no aid or support from anyone. When I return to Sudan I will be able to get aid and support very quickly, through my personal relationships and many leaders in the Arab world who are still in power and still ready to support Numayri.

[Rizq] It is likely that you are relying on Egypt for this action.

[Numayri] Egypt is still Sudan's most important friend, and its position is excellent. Egypt will continue to be its friend and not to interfere in its internal affairs.

[Rizq] But your presence in Cairo is seen as one of the reasons for the crisis between Cairo and Khartoum.

[Numayri] No, I am not the reason. There are problems in Sudan which they are trying to cover up by concocting problems with Egypt, in order to distract the attention of the Sudanese away from the crushing crisis at home. They choose problems with Egypt because it is our most important neighbor, and there has been this problem between the two countries relating to Hala'ib ever since the Ummah Party held power. So it is a ready-made problem, and the other party to the dispute is right there on the border.

[Rizq] In your view, is Hala'ib Egyptian territory or Sudanese?

[Numayri] We studied this problem in the days of the May Revolution's rule, and we found that Sudan had no right to Hala'ib. It is 100 percent Egyptian territory, according to various agreements, but Egyptian ministers of the interior have put the region under Sudanese administration because members of the tribe that inhabits it live mostly in Sudan. Communications were difficult for Egypt in the beginning of the 20th century, so it remained under Sudanese rule. When Egypt wanted to recover Hala'ib, Sudanese Prime Minister 'Abdallah Khalil invented a problem to cover up his internal problems in the 1950s, when the Ummah Party was ruling. He mobilized troops to fight Egypt and brought the problem before the United Nations. We studied the problem when the May government was in power and found that 'Abdallah Khalil had tried to exploit the problem to cover a domestic position. We withdrew the problem from all international forums after ascertaining that this was 100 percent Egyptian land.

They accused me of renouncing Sudanese territory. I say to them that no village or city was occupied when I ruled, and in their day villages and cities have become occupied by foreign troops. They know this, and that is the true reason behind the crisis between Cairo and Khartoum.

[Rizq] Are there other reasons for the dispute?

[Numayri] Yes. There is the Ummah Party and that same liar and misleading person who is still stirring up the problem that the Egyptians who fought his grandfather, al-Mahdi, and killed the Sudanese and their supporters. He exploits that in the media and in his religious sermons. It is strange that all the Ummah Party leaders abroad are in Egypt. So the Front is stirring up the Hala'ib problem, and al-Sadiq al-Mahdi stirs up old hatreds, apart from the fact that in Sudan there are those who think he wants to strangle Egypt with the waters of the Nile. They think the waters are their property and that it is their right to grant them to whom they wish, but this is not so. They will get nothing from Egypt through pressure; on the contrary, I got everything from Egypt without pressure, by using better means. Egypt gave me 3,000 slots for students ever year for free. I was the friend of Egypt's leaders, and from Egypt I got easy loans for oil and for many goods too. Egypt and Sudan are markets for one another, and there are family relations among Egyptian families and Sudanese ones.

[Rizq] What was behind Egypt's support for the current Sudanese regime in the beginning?

[Numayri] Perhaps the reason for the support was that Cairo believed it was an army movement before they discovered that the MB was behind it. At that point the Egyptian position changed very quickly.

[Rizq] How do you live in Cairo now?

[Numayri] I live the life of an honest citizen, enjoying the love of Egyptian and Sudanese citizens. I live with my wife, without vexations.

Status of Petroleum Reserves Reported

95AF0124A Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 9 Jun 95 pp 1225-1226

[Article by Sabah Naaoush: "Petroleum in the Sudan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudan imports crude mainly from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Libya. These imports are a major cause of the worsening in the trade imbalance because they account for one-third of total imports. Furthermore, no energy saving measure is possible owing to weak consumption.

The crude is processed in the Port Sudan refinery, which produces fuel, gasoil, and gasoline. Built in 1962 by Shell and British Petroleum and purchased in 1991 by the Sudanese Government, the refinery has a capacity of 23,800 barrels/day (1.2 million tonnes per year), which almost covers the current local demand. It further needs to be observed that, owing to poor materiel maintenance, its actual production is frequently

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lower than its initial capacity. The refined products are transported to Khartoum by an 800-kilometer long pipeline.

Reserves Are Modest

Exploration, which has been carried out for many years, has shown that the country's subsoil contains a certain amount of petroleum. The estimates of proved reserves, however, are very disputed. The World Energy Council has advanced the figure of 300 million barrels. Companies operating on the scene each have a different estimate, which varies, of course, with time. Chevron, for example, announced in the mid-1980's that it had discovered 545 million barrels. A recent statement by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mines estimated them at 1.7 billion barrels. It would seem that the most optimistic estimates are closer to the truth.

Petroleum reserves depend on the relationship between the technical production cost and the price of the barrel. Cost is a function of the extent and the depth of the deposits. By way of an example, it goes from $0.50 per barrel for a deposit of 1 billion barrels at a depth of 2,000 meters to $6.00 per barrel for a deposit containing about a hundred million barrels located at a depth of 10,000 meters. So the decision to invest and explore depends on the market price. So petroleum becomes recoverable if its price exceeds a minimum of twice its cost.

On the other hand, a high price leads to exploration and even production being abandoned. This was how some companies that signed exploration agreements with the Sudan during the period of the oil chocks (1973-79) halted their work during the years 1984-88 when prices dropped.

Besides, considerations of a political and financial nature enter into an estimate of petroleum reserves. They can sometimes distort it. The government minimizes the size of reserves in areas of political conflict. Sometimes no official information is issued. That is the case of the south of the Sudan. Let us note that according to some research the biggest discoveries in the Sudan are in the south, where 1.4 billion barrels are located. On the other hand, financial constraints have led the government to overestimate total reserves in order to attract foreign investors, produce more, and eventually sell less expensively.

According to studies, Sudanese crude is generally low-density. That, for example, is the case with petroleum from Abu Gabra, which is between 15 and 30 API (American Petroleum Institute). Therefore, it is difficult to process it with the resources available at the Port Sudan refinery. That, among others, is the reason a small refinery was built in the southwest in December 1992. It processes 2,500 barrels/day coming from the Abu Gabra deposits.

Petroleum Shortage

The country's energy consumption is difficult to assess precisely. This difficulty arises from a lack of statistics and in particular from the nature of the energy resources. It is believed, however, according to "Energy Data Associates," that it is close to 6.7 million petroleum equivalent tonnes (PET) per annum. But it is appropriate to exclude in this context so-called commercial resources, especially wood, used mainly by the rural population to prepare food. Consumption then drops to 1.43 PET or 28,600 petroleum equivalent barrels per day.

Petroleum products are in first place among other energy resources. This predominance is more significant in the Sudan than it is for most developing countries. Petroleum, given the almost total lack of natural gas and the extremely low level of electrical production, accounts for 94 percent of the consumption of commercial energy.

Individual petroleum consumption is particularly low. On an average, a Sudanese consumes 5.6 liters per month as compared with 8.1 liters per week for an Egyptian and 12.9 liters per day for a Frenchman. The problem is not solely in the low consumption level but also and in particular in the distribution of energy to different economic activities. Undoubtedly the usage of petroleum products is a good reflection of the main causes for underdevelopment. Sixty percent of the petroleum is assigned to transport, but only 15 percent to industry, and 10 percent to agriculture. So the lack of petroleum in factories arises from this irrational distribution.

In order to cope with this situation, the government some years ago introduced a weekly rationing system. It established a quota of 3 gallons of gas (13.6 liters) for a private vehicle, 6 gallons for a taxi, and 7 gallons for a vehicle belonging to the state. Immediately the price of gas doubled: from 1,500 to 3,000 [Sudanese] pounds per gallon, working out to the monthly salary of a worker. That exacerbated the inflation rate, which is currently in triple digits.

The Sudanese president held bad administrative management responsible. As for the minister of energy and mines, he accused foreign companies for the delay in the supply of certain chemical products used in the refining industry. The deficit of the publicly owned firm of General Petroleum Corporation (GPC), estimated at 9 billion pounds, increased the cost of petroleum products. The company has been liquidated.

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The shortage of petroleum products is the result of the very acute crisis in trade exchanges, marked by a chronic high deficit. Furthermore, the foreign debt greatly exceeds the gross domestic product, and hard currency is rarer and rarer. Owing to this shortage, the government has shown interest in local production of crude. Exploration agreements have been signed for 36 years with American and European companies. But technical, financial, and especially political problems have frequently resulted in these projects being abandoned.

Exploration Abandoned

In August 1959, Agip, a subsidiary of the Italian firm of ENI [expansion not given], became the first petroleum company to obtain an exploration license. Other licenses were subsequently granted, notably to the General Exploration Company of California, Continental Oil Company, Digna Petroleum Company, Shell, and British Petroleum. Under the terms of these agreements, the companies were supposed to deal with geological and topographical issues. The results of this research showed that there existed a certain amount of petroleum in this northern part of the country. But the work was burdensome and difficult to carry out given the depth of the deposits: about 15,000 meters. Those licenses expired or were abandoned.

In 1974 the government granted an exploration license to the American firm Standard Oil of California (which became Chevron). It covered a 28,300 square kilometer area on the Red Sea coast. One year later a new area covering 516,000 square kilometers was granted to it. Involved was in essence all of the south, an area equivalent to Spain's. In the Suakin region on the Red Sea, Chevron in 1976 discovered reserves of 70 million barrels of petroleum and 900 million cubic meters of natural gas. Three years later, near El-Muglad, located in the southwest, it found a small amount of petroleum. This news, however, was important because the deposit's depth was only 2,500 meters. Furthermore, density was 40° API, thus a light crude, rich in white products.

This is not common in the Sudan. Other wells have been discovered close to the White Nile, the Blue Nile, Gezira, and Kassala with a medium density of 33° API, which corresponds to Saudi Arabia's Arabian Light and which for many years remained OPEC's reference. The American company finally pulled out of the Sudan after having spent about $1 billion. In June 1992, it sold its holdings to Concorp International, a local private company, which, in turn, transferred its holdings to the Sudanese Government. The price for the transfer will long remain in the annals of petroleum: $26 million, that is, an amount less than 3 percent of the investments made.

In November 1979, Total, a French company, was granted an area covering 6,391 square kilometers in the Red Sea, where it discovered two new wells. Its area of operations was then extended to an area close to El-Muglad that had been abandoned by Chevron. Total spent about $500 million. The military conflict in the south greatly disrupted its activities. In December 1985, the company temporarily suspended its explorations. In 1988 it stated that it did not intend to resume them if a durable solution to the war had not been found. The Sudanese Government intensified its contacts with company management so it would revise its position. The outcome was negative.

Abandoning explorations for a political reason affects not only the south but the north as well. Indeed, the Halaib problem (10,300 square kilometers) has lasted for a century. In 1899 the Sudan became an Anglo-Egyptian condominium. Three years later, an amendment to the treaty allowed the Sudan to exercise "administrative responsibility" north of the borders, which were set at the 22nd parallel.

Supported by this administrative notion, the Sudanese Government in December 1991 granted an exploration concession to the Canadian firm of International Petroleum Corporation (IPC). This agreement covered Halaib and Tokar on the Red Sea. Egypt denounced it, claiming its sovereignty over Halaib in accordance with the 1899 treaty. According to Cairo, the 22nd parallel set the political borders between the two countries, and, thus, the concession granted the IPC was void.

The discoveries made by Chevron and Total, as well as the petroleum industry's financial and political problems, represented a major reference point. It is an encouragement to new companies that would become interested in the petroleum in the Sudan.

Arakis's Optimistic Plan

In December 1992, the Canadian consortium of Arakis Energy Corporation obtained a license to explore the Melut and El-Muglad areas that belonged to Chevron and Total. In order to avoid the difficulties that these two companies had encountered, Arakis demanded military protection from the state in that southern area.

With European and Canadian financial assistance, Arakis is in the process of constructing a pipeline linking the deposits in the southwest to Port Sudan. It has a 50-centimeter diameter and a length of 1,400 kilometers. Its capacity, over a five-year period, will go from 85,000 to 300,000 barrels per day. Its cost

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is estimated at $300 million. It was supposed to have been functional by now, but financial problems have delayed its implementation. In 1994, Arakis indeed started to produce several million barrels per day.

The company drew up a plan to improve the wells' productivity. It selected 34 that are part of the 90 wells discovered by Chevron. Work to last two years is supposed to be financed by a British group, Nichols Associates. According to this plan, petroleum production will reach 40,000 barrels per day this year and 65,000 barrels per day next year. Then production will be 300,000 barrels per day, 200,000 barrels per day of which will be assigned to exploration [as published].

If Arakis were to succeed in carrying out its plan, the Sudan could achieve three goals: first, saving an average of $250 million per year, equivalent to the amount spent on petroleum imports. The country would thus make up two-thirds of its chronic trade balance deficit; next, local consumption would quadruple. That would help to deal with the lack of supply in all areas of economic activity, especially industry; last, petroleum exports in the years to come would radically transform the state's finances.

Supposing that the average price per barrel is $15, the figure for annual petroleum exports would be in excess of $1 billion. Whereas current exports, which are just about limited to agricultural products, are less than $250 million.

The country could thus resolve foreign debt servicing problems instead of periodically requesting rescheduling. The figure for petroleum exports would also help in the fight against famine and diseases and in the construction of socioeconomic infrastructures.

This depends essentially on an economic policy that is more appropriate and especially on the implementation of a peaceful solution to the military conflict.

Tunisia

President Appoints 6 New Governors, Moves 2

LD2407162295 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at Carthage palace this morning met Interior Minister Mohamed Jegham, who submitted a report on the work of the Interior Ministry. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, the interior minister announced that the president has decided to carry out the following appointments to the governors corps:

Mohamed Ben Nasr as governor of Monastir;
Habib Ben Gamra as governor of Sidi Bouzid;
Zouhair Dhaouadi as governor of Nabeul;
Ali Trabelsi as governor of Siliana;
Youssef Ajlani as governor of Tozeur;
Saad Haji as governor of Le Kef.

The president has also decided on the following transfers of governors:

Mohamed Soudani from Bizerta to Sfax;
Ridha Mokrani from Siliana to Bizerta.

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Kuwait

End to 'Tragic Reality' in Bosnia Urged

LD2307161995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 23 Jul — Kuwait renewed its appeal to the international community to take the initiative and adopt urgent and deterrent measures to end the tragic reality in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This came during a council of rministers' meeting held under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. During the meeting, the council reviewed the deteriorating conditions in Bosnia-Herzegovina on account of the massacres of the Serbian forces. [passage omitted]

The council also listened to an exposition by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, on his recent visit to the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and on the positive talks he held there, during which he conveyed a message from the amir of Kuwait to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques within the framework of the strong fraternal relations which bound the leaderships of the two countries and their fraternal peoples. [passage omitted]

Russia To Deliver Missiles, Armored Vehicles

LD2407225395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1902 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 24 Jul — The Kuwaiti Defense Ministry said a visiting Russian military official met today with Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah. They discussed arrival dates of shipments of weapons Kuwait bought recently from Russia.

The official is Aleksandr Kotelkin, who is head of the Department of Military and Technical Cooperation. A Defense Ministry statement said that the two sides discussed dates on which Kuwait would receive Smerch missiles and BMP-3 armored vehicles, which are part of an arms deal concluded between Kuwait and Russia.

The statement said this deal was part of the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry's plan to develop the army and enhance its competence and defensive capabilities.

Kuwait and Russia signed a military security agreement nearly two years ago. Kuwait also has similar agreements with United States, Britain, and France which were concluded after its liberation from the Iraqi invasion in 1991.

Shaykh Sabah Hopes For Early Settlement of Prisoners

LD2407154995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 24 Jul (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today expressed hope that there will be a settlement of the tragedy of Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq soon. In a statement to KUNA Shaykh Sabah said: "I am always optimistic that an end will be put to the suffering of our sons who are prisoners in Iraqi jails." Following his meeting with the regional commissoner of the International Red Cross Committee, Shaykh Sabah was replying to a question on the extent of his optimism about the realization of an early settlement of the difficult question of Kuwaiti prisoners. Shaykh Sabah said that his meeting with the commissioner took place prior to the commissioner's departure to Geneva to prepare for a meeting of the international three-man committee on 3 and 4 August to discuss the issue of the prisoners. [passage omitted].

Shaykh Sabah concluded his statement by expressing optimism "that the August meeting will produce a good result regarding the prisoners from Kuwait and other states who have been detained in Iraq for about five years."

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Welcomes OIC Resolutions on Bosnia

LD2407192995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1740 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 24 Jul (SPA) — The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, chaired a session held by the Council of Ministers this afternoon at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

Khalid Bin-Muhammad al-'Anqari, the minister of higher education and acting information minister, made the following statement to SPA:

After reviewing all the current situations at the Muslim, Arab, and international levels, the cabinet listened to a comprehensive statement by the custodian of the two holy mosques on the tragic conditions in which some Muslim countries find themselves and on the sufferings of their peoples.

The king said "the Saudi Government is following with the utmost concern the continuation of acts of aggression by the Serbs against the UN-designated safe areas in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the mass killings, rapes, and inhuman practices perpetrated

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by the Serb forces against the civilian population in a blatant defiance of international legitimacy, standards of civilized behavior, law, and morality.

While acknowledging the outcome of the international meeting on Bosnia held in London on 21 July 1995, the Saudi Government expresses the hope that the pledges made in the final statement issued at the end of this meeting will be honored. It also hopes that previous international pledges regarding the protection of safe areas and the implementation of the peace plan in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be honored and that all means will be used to restore the situation in Srebrenica as it was in implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1004.

The custodian of the two holy mosques added: In keeping with the constant stands adopted by the Saudi Government to continue its support and backing for the brethren in Bosnia-Herzegovina in their legitimate cause for the protection of the independence and sovereignty of this republic and the preservation of its territorial integrity, the government announces its total support for the recommendations made by the ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] Contact Group held in Geneva on 21 July 1995. It also announces its commitment to continue giving its support for the Muslim people of Bosnia, officially and through personal contributions from the public. Thus the kingdom recently gave 50 million riyals, while the Higher People's Committee of Support for Bosnia-Herzegovina made donations estimated at over 800 million riyals.

The king further said: Saudi Arabia urges the sisterly Muslim states to implement the recommendations made by the Islamic Contact Group and to provide all forms of material and moral support for the govermnent and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina to enable it to preserve its independence and sovereignty, secure its territorial integrity, and particularly to enable it to exercise its legitimate right to self-defense as stipulated by article 51 of the UN charter.

Saudi Arabia also urges the sisterly Muslim states to continue their joint action to force Serb forces to stop at once the implementation of their aggressive plans and their scorn for international legitimacy, because this constitutes a blatant defiance to the feelings of the Muslims everywhere and an obvious contempt for the Muslim nation.

Saudi Arabia also calls on the international community to provide all the means necessary for the implementation of the resolutions of the international legitimacy pertaining to the Serb aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina and to consider the crimes perpetrated by the Serb forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina as crimes against humanity and to prosecute those responsible for these crimes and bring them before the international war crimes tribunal.

His excellency Dr. Khalid al-'Anqari pointed out that in this respect the council commended the great role played by the Supreme Authority for the Collection of Donations for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, headed by Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, governor of Riyadh Region. The council also praised the response of the people of this generous country to what their religion tells them to do with regard to supporting their fellow Muslims. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Dr. al-'Anqari added: "Then Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the crown prince and deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, kindly informed the council of the results of his talks in the fraternal Kingdom of Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

The acting minister of information, Dr. Khalid al-'Anqari, added: "Then the council examined a number of domestic issues that have one objective; that is, to serve this generous country and its nationals."

The acting information minister concluded his statement by saying: "Afterwards the council looked into other items on its agenda, for which it made the following decisions: First, upon the Shura Council's decision number 5/2/16 dated 13/01/1416H, the council of ministers has decided to approve the agreement of cooperation between the Saudi Interior Ministry and the Tunisian Interior Ministry in accordance with the enclosed form. A draft royal decree to this effect has been prepared. [passage omitted]

General Mufti Warns Youths Against Travel to West

LD2107223695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1250 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 21 Jul (KUNA) — The General Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Aziz Bin-Baz, has warned the country's youth not to travel to Europe and America, or any other Western place, to spend the summer vacation. He asked them not to respond to the information circulated by some travel and tourism agencies in this regard.

In his advice, which he addressed to youths and their parents today and which was quoted by the SAUDI PRESS AGENCY, Shaykh Bin-Baz said: "There is a deadly poison in travelling to the land of the infidels and there are schemes by the enemies of Islam to lure

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Muslims away from their religion, to create doubts about their beliefs, and to spread sedition among them."

Shaykh Bin-Baz assailed the travel and tourism agencies for the information they circulate which is "inducing youths to travel and choose a family in the foreign country with whom to stay." He said that this "is an act which leads the Muslim youths astray, confuses them, spoils their dreams, traps them in sin, and creates doubts in their Muslim beliefs, inducing them to imitate the traditions and bad habits of the unbelievers." Shaykh Bin-Baz advised the youths to spend the summer in the "safety" of the recreation and summer resorts of their own country and to give up traveling to foreign countries with the attendant dangerous consequences.

It is noted that the phenomenon of Saudi youths traveling abroad emerged and peaked in the 1980's. However, it receded and reached its lowest rates during the 1990's.

CDLR 'Open Letter' to Mr. David Hirst

MS2107121895 London CDLR Monitor in English 13 Jul 95 p

["Open letter" issued by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR), to Mr. David Hirst GUARDIAN correspondent, Beirut, Lebanon — received via fax 17 July]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It falls upon me to thank you for the article which was featured in THE GUARDIAN, Friday July the 7th of 1995.

The fact that you write under a logo of four faces, two black and two white is really quite interesting but far more interesting is the fact that these two X two faces are turned away from each other. I wonder if this is sheer accident of design or something more sinister. Its base is the motto 'Other worlds' which in itself portrays a feeling of separation. You will say, I am sure, that it is in keeping with your articles and does not convey a feeling of separation because the black face has a white face superimposed on it and vice versa. It is a logo with which you are very familiar because as an eye catching sub-heading you write, "The 'liberal' opposition warned that the committee had two faces". You say, towards the end of your article, that "...its Islamist one, anti-Western in spirit, was its truer one". As you are aware, from your living in and divided and thus troubled country of Lebanon, Islam acknowledges only two separate entities on this globe. The distinction arises with 'Dar al-Islam' and 'Dar al-Jahiliyyah", the domain of Islam and the domain of ignorance, here used in its correct meaning of not knowing or being aware. There are many Muslims who are offended by this media-generated idea of West and East when talking about a global 'religion' or more properly, way of life. After all, the many sides of Christianity come from this same geographical area and I believe they are not seen as Eastern. They are divided amongst themselves as to who will enter Paradise and are all still fighting to ensure supremacy of their own belief. Just recently several Mps concerted to Roman Catholicism because they felt betrayed by the C of E [Church of England] Synod's 'fatwa' on woman clergy. I never heard that this was a Northern — Southern European divide!

We of the CDLR and those who support us will never have any face, D.V., save an Islamic one!

We thank you for the acknowledgment of our providing the "systematic insight into a seamier side of the kingdom which the outside world should know about". We would like to ,make it clear that what we are opposing is the un-Islamic behaviour of this dynasty and not just the "seamier side" which is merely the symptom. In truth, however, the advise present in your article is gratefully received but we would like to make one point and that is — we are in the process of educating 'Saudis' who have not been able to gain access to certain main issues. We support this by quoting from Koran and Hadith and from the very scholars whom al-Sa'ud claim to follow. Ibn-Taymiyyah and Ibn-Abd-al-Wahhab are the mainstay of the school of Islam which they are overtly adhering to. From our quotations of these well informed scholars we are able to show that al-Sa'ud are claiming allegiance but, in fact, are nowhere near consistent in their observance. They have thrown Islam away and are rewriting the books whilst retaining the covers for the benefit of themselves and the ruin of others.

You say that our faxes tend to deteriorate into a sort of "scriptural pedantry and mediaeval scholasticism, in ancient bigotries that furnish ammunition for those who say that 'political Islam's is by definition extreme and menacing". Surely the more one knows of a subject the more one is able to logically and fully explain it to another. We would not accept interpretations that are not founded on our scriptures and for this we have to reach back into what you call the 'past.' Consider, as we do, that the Koran is just as alive today as it was over 1400 years ago. Truth does not change but peoples' attitudes to it do. Altera tempores: altera mores does not talk about truth. It is theologically and philosophically correct to say that religions that change their truth to suit people are not God inspired religions but a simple manipulation of ideas to retain power. Scientists are not required to change their f acts because people do not like what they are saying, the facts might be suppressed by the authorities, however, in order to keep them happy. This is a betrayal of science. Those

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facts, no matter how well hidden, will remain facts. It is more important, therefore, to abide by the truths that are revealed to us through his prophets. Didn't that beloved of God, the prophet Jesus say, "I haven't come to dispense with the law and the prophets"? Clearly he always accepted that their law, founded on God's will, should be retained. What, then, are we Muslims to do when faced with problems of an Islamic nature? Are we to go back to previous scholars who have considered the matter carefully and Islamically and see if their pronouncements can be utilised or are we to make it up as we go along. Any judiciary, I'm sure, would rule on the former. If we were to start making up laws and conditions from our own ideas and desire we would be denying that very God to Whom we profess obedience. This is the same crime that we are accusing al-Sa'ud of, so it would be inappropriate and hypocritical for us to commit.

You say you wonder, "how the same minds — evidently they are the same minds — can swing so easily between the seventh and 20th (sic) centuries". Murder was one of the crimes that God forbade in the 10 Commandments, it is still a crime today even though there are probably relatively more incidents in the modern 'Christian' world which professes to cling to pseudo-neo-Mosaic law. When Judges of the land are asked to decide and rule on the legitimacy of an action they are required to look up precedents and then give their decision. If a state institute is required to do this, what then of God revealed decisions which are contained in the shari'ah?

I feel that if we were in a perfect world where 'Christians' followed their prophet and laws and 'Muslims' were obedient to God in the same way, you wouldn't be telling us that we shouldn't do this or we should do that. It is clear that those who label themselves, do exactly that, without abiding by the complete set of rules that go along with the label. 'Jews', 'Christian' and 'Muslim' are not labels to be attached carelessly. That is not to say that we should judge whether the wearer is legitimate or not save by their very behaviour. if, for example, I saw someone doing something that breached the rules of his warning that label I should question him as to his intention. It is possible that he didn't realise how dangerous his doing that thing was and might accept the advice. If, however, he refused to take advice and carried on I could only assume that he had every intention of leaving himself open to the consequences of his action and that he was fully prepared.

I am sure that your knowledge of Arabic is such that you know what the world 'awlia' means allies in this context (The Table Spread v. 51). It is impossible to defend the use of the word 'friend' which is generally found in the Koran's translations.

We could give you faxes which contained, "some of the nice things which God instructed his Messenger to say about the two 'peoples of the Book'". This political correctness seems to be the very demand which is leading this country into trouble. There are many thinsg which do not change and there are many which have become distorted because of man's folly. Think of Mr. Paul Condon [Metropolitan Police Chief] and his latest revelation. The blacks of this country were indeed offended but so many of the media were quick to say that this is something to be faced, simply facts which should be aired so that we could get to the root cause of it and try to solve instead of brushing it under the carpet.

You will be one of the first to agree that this country, more is the pity, does not follow 'Christianity', you will also agree that America is, by its very constitution, a secular society and I am sure you would agree that it is blatantly obvious that this type of society does not work. It was interesting to read about a top British export in THE GUARDIAN of the 29th of June. That top export was, according to The Anti-Defamation League, violence and racism via skinheads. Most of the other newspapers carried an article drived from a statement from the Government's chief adviser on school curricula. He said that Britain is "far advanced towards becoming a religiously illiterate society". Strangely, I cannot recall THE GUARDIAN'S carrying this. Prime Minister Major advised Britons to get back to basics because of the situation in this country, the shame is that he did not say get back to Christian principles or true religious values.

We are trying to root out the un-Islamic behaviour of various 'Muslims' in power in the al-Sa'ud kingdom. We are trying to follow Islam as well as possible, and surely you don't deny us that. There are people who never ask what Islam is about, instead they know from their preconceived ideas. Those ideas which are gleaned from the media and school time history of crusades. Will you and those who are nowhere as knowledgeable as you, let us have a voice to inform and educate about Islam, the 'Middle Way'? If, as it seems, you are intelligent and open to discourse, will you give us a chance and allow us to write the truth about Islam, our way of life in the press? Will you come and share our life for a week or two to get some idea of what we are really like? It would be good to have someone like you who might be willing to forgo preferment for writing fact.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Mohammd A. S. al-Mas'ari, CDLR secretary general and spokesman

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United Arab Emirates

U.S. Said Urging Dubai Not To Buy Iranian Gas Through Total

NC2407115595 Paris AFP in English 1048 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, July 24 (AFP)—The United States is putting pressure on Dubai to refuse to buy any gas produced at two Iranian offshore oil fields to be developed by France's Total, the specialist weekly MEES said Monday [24 July].

"MEES understands that the US has now made diplomatic representations to the ruler of Dubai in an effort to persuade the Dubai government not to enter into any arrangement to purchase Iranian gas made available as a result of the Sirri oilfields development venture," the weekly said.

It added that Dubai's response was not known.

But the sale of gas from the Sirri A and E fields to Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, was "an important element in the project," the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said.

Total took over the contract to develop the fields after the US firm abruptly pulled out when Washington slapped an embargo on Tehran in June.

After the new deal was signed with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Washington appealed to Paris not to back French investments in Iran.

But in a reply published by MEES, the French foreign ministry said "Total is a private company. Its activities in Iran are legitimate. The French state has therefore no legal means to forbid these activities."

It said the French state "did not intervene" in relations between oil companies and states.

Dubai is due to agree to buy part of the 14.1 million cubic metres (493.5 million cubic feet) of gas a day which will be produced under the accord to develop the two fields in the Gulf close to the maritime borders with the emirate.

Total is to invest 600 million dollars in setting up production at the two fields which have an expected capacity of 120,000 barrels per day (bpd).

Yemen

Opposition Accuses Government of Illegal Detention

NC2107145195 Paris AFP in English 1424 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, July 21 (AFP) — The opposition Islamist party Al-Haqq on Friday [21 July] accused Yemeni police of holding seven protestors who were arrested after a disturbance at a mosque here.

They were jailed after holing themselves up inside a mosque to protest a police raid Tuesday on a religious school operated by Al-Haqq, party officials said.

Police denied that any Al-Haqq supporters were still in jail, saying that all had been released after the confrontation.

Police launched the raid to prevent the school from illegally expanding onto an adjacent public garden, firing into the air to disperse Al-Haqq supporters who were throwing stones, police said.

Government officials accuse Al-Haq of being financed by Iran, while the party accuses Al-Islah [Reform Grouping], a fundamentalist member of the ruling coalition, of wanting to control all Islamist followers in Yemen.

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AL-'IRAQ: General Amnesty Reflects 'Tolerance'

JN2507091595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0644 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has stated that the Revolution Command Council's decision to give amnesty to prisoners, those detained on remand, army deserters, and armed service dodgers reflects humane spirit, noble discourse, and tolerance at their best, as expounded in the speech delivered by President Saddam Husayn on the anniversary of the glorious July revolution.

In an editorial today, the paper adds: The enemies and rancorous parties who carried out the most heinous military aggression against Iraq and enforced their blockade on it have sought to destroy the genuine Iraqi character, but to no avail. They sought to exploit the human weaknesses of a small sector of the Iraqi people and enticed them into violating the noble values and principles, for which this noble people have been known.

The paper goes on to say: This dishonorable endeavor by the enemies has been unsuccessful. For only a few abnormalities have surfaced; and this happens in the best of societies. Iraq's social fabric has remained intact and healthy, thanks to the resolve of the leader and the zealous Iraqis at a time when the scoundrels who took part in the 30-state aggression and imposed the blockade on this country imagined that an ethical collapse in Iraq was in the offing.

The paper indicates that all those pardoned by the noble general amnesty now have the chance to turn a new leaf and confirm in deed that they are trustworthy. Once their souls are purged of what is nationally and ethically unacceptable, wide vistas will be opened for them.

IAEA Cited on 'False' SUNDAY TIMES Documents

JN2407194795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, the United Nations, 24 Jul (INA)—The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] has asserted that it found nothing to prove the credibility of the false documents which had been attributed to Iraq.

In a report submitted to the UN Security Council and released at the UN Headquarters in New York today, the IAEA explained that its investigations revealed that the alleged documents were not original and that they contain a large number of errors that do not conform to the context.

The IAEA said these documents, published in the British newspaper THE SUNDAY TIMES in April, lack linguistic accuracy and differ from the unified Iraqi use of terminology. The report points out that the investigations conducted by the IAEA have clearly shown that these alleged documents are inaccurate with regard to the use of names, titles, qualifications, and administrative and technical organization.

On 2 April, THE SUNDAY TIMES published false documents claiming that Iraq has resumed its nuclear program in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 687 in a bid to instigate the Security Council to perpetuate the blockade imposed on Iraq.

This tendentious campaign is part of the falsehoods designed to tarnish the positions of some countries that support Iraq whenever the date for reviewing the blockade imposed on Iraq approaches.

One week after THE SUNDAY TIMES published these alleged documents in April, the Vienna-based IAEA asserted that the documents were false and that the violation claimed by the British newspaper, was not confirmed.

New Data on Biological Weapons Program Supplied

95LH0211A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Article by Raghidah Dargham: "Baghdad Reveals Data About Biological Program"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The chairman of the UN Special Commission on Iraq To Eliminate Prohibited Weapons, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, reported on 2 July 1995 that the Iraqi Government had given the commission new information concerning its biological weapons program. He described the discussions that he held with Iraqi officials as "positive and constructive," stressing that he had agreed with them on "continuing intensive efforts to clarify these questions" with regard to the biological issue.

The Special Commission's chairman spoke at the conclusion of his three-day visit to Baghdad. He was accompanied by biological weapons experts. Ekeus met with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and the new minister of oil, Major General 'Amir Rashid. It was interesting to note that the Baghdad media ceased their campaign against Ekeus during this visit.

The results of Ekeus' mission to Baghdad seem to have accelerated the course of Iraq's cooperation with the Special Commission. This may radically affect how Iraq's case is submitted to the Security Council with regard to implementation of Article 22 of Resolution

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687, which links lifting the oil embargo on this country to its complete cooperation with all the Special Commission's demands.

Upon his arrival in Bahrain yesterday evening, 2 July 1995, Ekeus repeated his impression of "positive and constructive" discussions in Baghdad. He said his visit to Iraq had ended on a positive note, represented by the "obtaining from the Iraqis new data regarding their biological weapons program" prior to the Gulf war. He added: "We will submit the new information to the Security Council, in addition to a report on our mission." He referred to"the international experts' intensive discussions with regard to the biological weapons program," that were held in Baghdad, stressing that Maj. Gen. 'Amir Rashid who, last week, was appointed minister of oil, "will continue to assume responsibility for discussion with the commission concerning the arms questions." Maj. Gen. 'Amir Rashid had been director of the Iraqi Military Industrial Board, which was attached to the Ministry of Industry. His appointment was in accordance with a decree issued by President Saddam Husayn last week.

Shortly before he left Baghdad, Ekeus said: "The Iraqi Government has given us new data pertaining to the biological weapons program, which we will report to the Security Council." He did not specify a date; he will wait for the results of the experts' exhaustive investigation into the accuracy of the data and for verification as to whether it is complete.

In the middle of next month, the Security Council is scheduled to conduct its periodic review of the international boycott imposed against Iraq. The council will hear Ekeus' reports before renewing the boycott. It is well known that the Security Council still extends the boycott semiautomatically, because the reports of the Special Commission's chairman have advised that Iraqi cooperation has not been complete.

However, Ekeus submitted a report last month expressing satisfaction with Baghdad's cooperation in completing the files on chemical weapons and missiles. He stated that the remaining issues in those two cases were "not of such importance as to affect the assessment of whether Iraq will complete the actions" required by Resolution 687. He made it clear that the only basic obstacle that could obstruct his submitting a report to the Security Council, on the basis of Article 22 of Resolution 687, was the issue of biological weapons.

Ekeus told AL-HAYAH, shortly before going to Baghdad, that his visit's success would depend on two basic matters: "First is the importance of a demonstration of proof by the Iraqi Government that the policy of cooperation with the commission is continuing, and, second, we hope to obtain a detailed and honest report concerning Iraq's biological weapons program." He continued by referring to Baghdad's expectation that the commission would end within two months from the time accurate data was submitted, as being "dependent on the experts' assessment" and the nature of the data that the Iraqi side submits.

UN circles thought it likely that the next review of the embargo would not be the decisive review, since it will be conducted in only two weeks. They expected that the review that follows two months later, i.e., in the middle of September, would be decisive, if the biological weapons file has been closed and no unexpected developments arise.

Russian, French, and Chinese diplomats, who support applying Article 22 of Resolution 687 in both letter and spirit, expressed satisfaction over Iraqi cooperation with Ekeus and his latest report, which made clear Iraq's accomplishments and the obligations that remain. Those three countries have tried, in various degrees, to persuade Baghdad that the only way to advance toward the application of Article 22 was full cooperation with Ekeus, in order to enable him to submit a report on the basis of that article. However, his submission of such a report on that basis does not mean that the Security Council will act on that basis. The political decision does not belong to Ekeus, but rather to the council members. With the exception of the United States and, to a lesser extent Britain, there is a consensus of opinion among the council members on the need to implement Article 22 of Resolution 687, at the time Ekeus submits his report, without adding any other conditions. The argument of these countries is that Article 22 contains the link between weapons and lifting the oil embargo. However, the United States takes a different position, believing that Baghdad must comply with all the other demands, such as closing the file on the prisoners and the missing, returning Kuwaiti property, and establishing peaceful intentions, etc., as a prior condition to the application of Article 22 and, consequently, to lifting the oil embargo. The question that was posed anew yesterday is: If Ekeus completes the weapons issue and declares that Iraq has shown complete cooperation, how will the United States confront the semiconsensus in the Security Council to apply Article 22? Will it decide to stand against the majority and use the veto against any resolution that requires lifting the oil blockade?

Washington has recently bet that Iraq will fail to close the biological weapons file, noting that UN experts are searching for 17 tons of materials that aid in developing bacteria, which the Special Commission fears the Iraqis have hidden. Baghdad insists that this

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material's effectiveness has expired and that the material became ineffective after the disturbances in Iraq that followed the Gulf war. Ekeus' discussions in Baghdad included three meetings with Maj. Gen. 'Amir Rashid who, a few days ago, was director of the Military Industrial Board. Iraqi sources stated that the reason for the multiple meetings with 'Amir Rashid stemmed from the fact that he was concerned with the details of the weapons file and had no connection with his new tasks as oil minister. Ekeus met twice with Tariq 'Aziz, who is known to support the policy of cooperation with the Special Commission as a means of getting rid of the sanctions imposed upon Iraq.

Construction Begins on Saddam Mosque in Baghdad

JN2407172495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Implementing the orders of President Saddam Husayn on building a big religious site, the engineering departments in the Presidency Diwan [Office] started today the work of building the Big Saddam Mosque in Baghdad. This was given out by the executive chairman of the project.

President of Russian Kalmyk Republic Visits

Meets With Saddam

JN2207164595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, president of the Russian Kalmyk Republic.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, and Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals.

Confers With Minister Hammadi

JN2407204695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, president of the Kalmyk Republic, which is one of the Russian Federation republics, has hailed the courage of leader President Saddam Husayn, and described him as a wise and firm leader, and a great diplomat.

At a meeting with Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, at noon today in the presence of chief editors of local newspapers, he said the Western media want to deceive the international public opinion, hide the facts about the treacherous aggression against the Iraqi people, and distort the facts about this civilized and deep-rooted country.

The Kalmyk president added that his country will work for lifting the siege on Iraq, and stressed that the continuation of the siege harms the Russian reputation, and because Russia is Iraq's friend and has historic and civilized relations with it.

He stressed that enhancing relations with Iraq, which is based on a great civilized heritage, will be positively reflected on the relations between the two friendly peoples.

Hammadi said at the meeting that the U.S. Administration does not believe in mutual understanding and dialogue for resolving bilateral issues, and does not believe in relations that are based on mutual respect. He said this administration seeks to impose political and economic hegemony on other countries. Therefore, strengthening the camp of the countries which respect establishing civilized relations that are not based on exploitation is sought by Iraq and peace-loving nations.

He said Iraq's relations with the Russian Federation are deep-rooted relations which are supported by the Iraqi and Russian leaderships and the two peoples.

The Kalmyk president spoke to chief editors of local newspapers about the political situation in the Russian Federation, and answered various questions.

Urges Efforts To Lift Sanctions

JN2507093195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA)—Kirsan Ilyumzhinov, president of the Kalmyk Republic, a Russian Federation republic, and his delegation left Baghdad today at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Iraq.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Ilyumzhinov commended the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of the embargo, which has left serious repercussions caused by acute food and medicine shortages. He added that the harsh embargo has not dented the cohesion of this people, nor has it undermined their goodness and yearning to build peaceful ties of friendship and cooperation with world peoples.

The Kalmyk president urged strong efforts to get the Iraq sanctions lifted. He added that it is inhuman and unfair to allow the Iraqi people to suffer under the sanctions any longer. He noted that Iraq's friends must work seriously and vigorously to end its agonies.

In a related development, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his visit and talks with Iraqi officials.

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In a statement to the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, Ilyumzhinov said that his meeting with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn produced a set of views regarding the efforts Russia is making to get the Iraq sanctions lifted. He added that he will convey a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The Kalmyk president commented on the topics he discussed with Iraqi officials, saying: We seek to conclude economic and cultural agreements with Iraq. Moreover, we aim to open a permanent legation for the Kalymk Republic in Baghdad.

Kirsan Ilyumzhinov pointed out that Iraq will build an Islamic cultural center on four hectares of land in the city of Elista in the Kalmyk Republic. He added that Kalmyk institutes and universities will begin to receive Iraqi students within the context of the bilateral cultural and scientific cooperation.

French Parliamentarian Meets With Leaders

Meets Acting Assembly Speaker

JN2207163995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 22 Jul (INA)—Ghanim 'Aziz, acting speaker of the National Assembly, met today with Yves Bonnet, member of the French National Assembly and his delegation.

Ghanim 'Aziz stressed the importance that the friends understand the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of acute shortage in food and medicine and the continuation of the unjust siege on them, and stressed the need to make efforts toward lifting the siege and ending this suffering.

He said the Iraqis have the right to enjoy their resources in order to buy their necessary requirements regardless of all international resolutions adopted against them and without the U.S. Administration's interference in drafting the resolutions that are targeted against the Iraqi people's unity and which interfere in their internal affairs.

Yves Bonnet expressed deep understanding of the Iraqi people's suffering, and stressed that all forms of sieges are inhuman weapons that are brandished against poor countries and humanity as a whole, especially when these weapons target food, public health, and basic materials for civilian life.

He stressed that the justice of the Iraqi view urges the international public opinion to make quick steps toward easing the Iraqi people's suffering caused by the continuation of the siege.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Safa' al-'Umari, chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee of the National Assembly.

Shows Understanding of People's Suffering

JN2307111395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak met with Yves Bonnet, member of the French National Assembly, and his delegation, today.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the Iraqi people's suffering due to the continued unjust blockade imposed on them, and its effects on the lives of millions of children, women, and the elderly. He stressed the need for action by the good people of the world to lift the blockade.

Bonnet showed understanding of the Iraqi people's suffering, and stressed the need for action to lift the blockade, stressing the importance of respecting the Iraqis' right to independent decisionmaking, and to using their resources to secure the basic needs of life. [passage omitted]

Views Cooperation With Defense Minister

JN2307175595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 23 Jul (INA)—Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad met here today with French Parliamentarian Yves Bonnet and his delegation.

The French parliamentarian urged the international community to lift the unfair sanctions clamped on the people of Iraq, particularly since Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments as enshrined in the relevant international resolutions.

During the meeting, they discussed the means to promote prospects for bilateral cooperation between the two friendly states.

Confers With Information Minister

JN2407172795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Jul 95

[From the "Evening Newspaper" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has met with Yves Bonnet, member of the French Parliament, and the delegation accompanying him.

The guest delegation expressed understanding of the Iraqi people's position, and said: We are against the

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continuation of the blockade because it is a humanitarian catastrophe for all mankind. The delegation noted the ongoing construction in Iraq.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Muzaffar al-Adhami, deputy head of the Arab and International Relations Committee in the National Assembly.

Meets Tariq 'Aziz

JN2407200695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 24 Jul (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the Foreign Relations Office in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Yves Bonnet, member of the French National Assembly.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the party's Foreign Relations Office.

1-10 Jul U.S. Airspace 'Violations' Protested

JN1807165795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1556 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 18 Jul (INA)—Iraq has once again protested to the United Nations against continued violations of the national Iraqi airspace by U.S. aircraft on observation and provocation missions.

In a letter sent to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said the aircraft conducted 603 hostile sorties between 1-10 April. They also dropped four flares in Ninawa and two flares over the al-Tar area in Dhi Qar.

Iraq's representative asked that the letter be circulated as a Security Council document.

Arab League Notified of Allied Airspace 'Violations'

JN1807170095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1557 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Jul (INA)—U.S., British, and French aircraft have continued their violations of the Iraqi airspace, taking off from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid conveyed by the permanent Iraqi representative to the Arab League, Iraq said that 510 hostile air sorties were carried out from 1-10 July.

The message described those violations as a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

Iraq's permanent representative asked that all Arab countries be acquainted with those facts.

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Sarid on Joint Aid Effort With Jordan to Bosnia

TA2307055195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israel and Jordan on Tuesday [25 July] are due to dispatch humanitarian aid to the Muslims in Bosnia. The decision was made during a meeting last week in Jordan between Environment Minister Yosi Sarid and Crown Prince Hassan.

An Israeli team headed by Minister Sarid will leave from Ben-Gurion Airport and, at the same time, a Jordanian plane will depart from Amman with a delegation led by Jordan's transport minister. The planes will carry supplies for Bosnian refugees. [passage omitted]

Minister Sarid told Amy Rhodes he wished more could be done on behalf of the refugees.

[Begin recording] [Sarid] First of all, it was His Majesty King Husayn's initiative. He called our prime minister during the last weekend, and the prime minister decided that it will be right to join and to follow. We are interested to assist in Bosnia as much as we can. It is a pity we cannot assist more. But according to the king's initiative, two aircraft will depart hopefully Tuesday. One Israeli aircraft will depart from Lod Airport and the other one will depart from Amman Airport. They will depart simultaneously, almost at the same time, and they will land at the same time. It is not yet known at what airfield in the Bosnia area they will land, but the last clarifications and last arrangements are being settled now between Jordan and UN forces.

[Rhodes] Is this an indication of future Middle East cooperation?

[Sarid] Absolutely. First of all, let's hope that there will be no tragedies and no disasters, but if, God forbid, there will be difficulties in one place or another over the globe, for sure it is a sign of regional cooperation between Israel and its neighbors, and Israel is ready to assist everywhere. We were in Bosnia in previous times, we were in Rwanda, and once cooperation is possible between us and our neighbors, it will be much more helpful, and from a humanitarian point of view, it will be much more precious for us and for the neighboring countries. [end recording]

Planes Depart With Aid; More Requested

TA2507084395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli and Jordanian planes carrying aid to Bosnia have departed and will arrive there this morning. The Israeli delegation is headed by Minister Yosi Sarid and the Jordanian delegation by Crown Prince Hasan. The planes are carrying medical equipment, food, and clothing.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that, prior to his departure, Minister Sarid said that the possibility of extending additional aid will be examined because more requests for humanitarian aid have arrived from Bosnia over the past few days.

Peres: Peace Talks To Reconvene 26 Jul in Europe

TA2507072695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky, Amir Rozenblit, and news agencies]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, suspended yesterday afternoon following the terrorist bombing in Ramat Gan, will move to Europe and reconvene tomorrow, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told THE JERUSALEM POST last night.

"The talks will move to Europe. They will start on Wednesday. It is impossible to continue talks here," he said.

There was concern that the attack would draw large numbers of protesters to the most recent site of the negotiations, the Lot Hotel at the Dead Sea.

Yesterday, several yeshiva students from Dimona sat outside the hotel studying Talmud, in memory of those who died in yesterday's attack.

Asked exactly where the talks would reconvene, Peres replied, "We have not decided yet."

One Palestinian official, however, claimed that a site had been agreed upon during a phone conversation between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat following the attack.

Speculation centers on an Italian Air Force base near Florence, Italy. Talks were supposed to move there two weeks ago, but remained here due to 'Arafat's desire to centralize decision-making.

Palestinian negotiator Ahmad Quray' made clear earlier in the day that a change of venue was necessary following yesterday's attack.

"We will resume talks (Wednesday)," he told Reuters. "We will not negotiate under blackmail and pressures and developments. The peace talks must continue in a far place, away from psychological and other pressures."

The Palestinians accepted the suspension of the talks yesterday as inevitable and understandable. "After what happened today, I think the decision to suspend the talks

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was a correct decision," said Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, spokesman for the Palestinian delegation.

"It's natural that such an event directly influences the course of the talks, and that is essentially the purpose of the attack," said Sufyan Abu-Zayidah, head of the PA's [Palestinian Authority] Israel desk. He described the atmosphere during the talks in the morning as "very difficult." [passage omitted]

Rabin Vows To Continue Process Despite Attack

TA2407123095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1115 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the Labor caucus on the "terrorist" attack in Ramat Gan — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Speaker, a murderous killing was perpetrated this morning on a bus near the Diamond Exchange in Ramat Gan apparently by a suicide attacker carrying a pipe — I saw parts of the pipe — filled with standard explosives, which caused many casualties. There is no doubt that it was carried out by one of the extremist elements, who through murderous terrorist actions against innocent people — innocent Israelis on their way to work — wish to achieve their political aim: To cease the negotiating process between us and the Palestinians. They will not achieve this aim.

I would like to reiterate what I have said over the past two or three months: There is no basis for all the various reports that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad have reached an agreement with the Palestinian Authority [PA] to cease terrorism. We have had specific information over the past three months that they have planned to perpetrate a murderous attack — from their viewpoint impressive — close to the date the agreement is reached.

The fact that terrorist attacks have not been perpetrated over recent months was not because Islamic Jihad and Hamas or other Palestinian terrorist elements opposing the agreement between the PLO and us did not want to carry them out. It is first and foremost due to our activity, but also due PA actions. Only yesterday a Palestinian police officer was killed by those elements. Over the past two weeks, another Palestinian officer, responsible for guarding the president of the Gaza court, was killed. They are also being murdered by the same elements that wish to harm the peace process.

Today's attack was cruel and painful. First, following consultations we decided to impose a closure in order to cut down the traffic between Gaza, Judaea and Samaria, and sovereign Israel. I do not know how long it will last, but I do not intend to maintain it for long. Second is of course to step up alertness on public transportation, but I will not specify how. Third, it is unthinkable that during funerals we will go on with the negotiations as though everything is normal, but we will continue the negotiations. After the funerals, a small Palestinian-Israeli team will decide the place and date to continue the talks. We do not intend to let the murderers from the extremist organizations — Hamas and Islamic Jihad — achieve their political aims. We will continue the negotiations.

We are determined to hold a dialogue with those who do not perpetrate attacks. We will always expect from ourselves and from the PA more effective activity against those who through cruel, crazy terrorist attacks like the one perpetrated this morning want to achieve their political aims: the cessation of the process that we believe is the path to resolve the conflict between us and the Palestinians. I know how painful it is for the families who lost their loved ones in this grave action, for the people of Israel, in fact for all peace loving people in the world, including Palestinians.

We wish the wounded a speedy recovery. I know that the resolution of a complicated conflict like the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is not simple. It has enemies, murderers on the Palestinian side, such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Rejectionist Front. But, there are also partners on the Palestinian side in reaching a solution, which did not exist in the past. I visited the attacked bus, which was a very painful and even shocking sight. I believe, although it must still be proven, that it was perpetrated by a suicide bomber who carried the explosives in one or more pipes and blew himself up with the intention of harming Israeli civilians who normally take the bus to work or for other purposes. I know it is a tough moment for all of us, but we must not let the crazy, murderous actions of the Palestinian enemies of peace prevent us from continuing the process we are determined to continue so as to solve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict once and for all.

It was painful and unpleasant for me to hear curse words from Israelis at the site of the attack. It is painful for many people, who cannot understand the reality — that there are partners to the process, but also enemies, on the other side. We must not permit Islamic Jihad and Hamas murderers to achieve their political aims. We must not give in to emotions, which are genuine and painful. We must go on, and we will go on. I do not want to say too much about how many attacks we have foiled. There is no truth to reports that Hamas and Islamic Jihad have reached an agreement with the PA and there is no truth to reports that attacks did not take place because of a decision by those elements not to perpetrate them. The reason they did not take place is the activity by our security elements — the Shin Bet, the IDF [Israel

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Defense Forces], the Border Police, and the Israel Police — as well as the PA. We demand that the PA, as well as ourselves, step up measures. I very much hope that all sorts of things taking place in Israel will not serve as obstacles to the Shin Bet and Israeli security forces in carrying out their necessary activities against Islamic Jihad and Hamas enemies and that no legal obstacles will be placed against the activities of those elements.

It is a tough day. Last week, we also experienced difficult events. We must continue the effort to find a historical solution to this conflict even in these very painful times, if not tomorrow then the day after. I appeal to the Labor caucus and coalition members: I know it is hard, but we must be firm in continuing along the path we decided on.

All the security elements are busy carrying out a more precise investigations in order to ascertain if there was a suicide terrorist and to learn his identity. We cannot say anything with certainty at this stage. From the government's point of view, everything must be investigated thoroughly and the details will be made public when they are known with certainty. I heard that I had reportedly said that the attacker came from Judaea or Samaria. I did not say anything like that because I will not say anything about which I am uncertain.

It is a difficult day, but I believe that looking to the future requires more resolve about the path we have taken. Progress has been made and we will go on in order to reach a solution to the conflict between us and the Palestinians along the path decided on by the government and Knesset.

Bus Attack Said To Spur Rabin To Speed Talks

TA2507102995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Jul 95 p 14

[Commentary by Shim'on Schiffer: "Rabin Is Leaning Toward Expediting the Negotiations With the Palestinians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If the planners of yesterday's attack intended to get Israel to back away from the Oslo accord, they apparently failed. In fact, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is leaning toward expediting the talks with the Palestinians.

Rabin held consultations with the heads of the defense establishment yesterday and later told the Labor caucus about several steps to be taken: The Dead Sea talks would be suspended until after the funerals of those killed in the terrorist attack; a brief closure would be imposed on the territories; there would be a reduction in the issuance of entry permits from the territories into Israel; security on buses would be stepped up throughout the country.

There is a big difference between Rabin's decisions yesterday and those that followed the attack on the No. 5 bus on Dizengoff Street a year ago. After the earlier murderous attack, Rabin held a news conference and, in a despondent voice, announced a general, open-ended closure on the territories. He declared his intention to reach a total separation between the two sides of the Green Line. Most important, Rabin warned 'Arafat that if he does not take a tough stand against the terrorists, he can forget about the continued expansion of self-rule on the West Bank.

Since the Dizengoff attack, relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority have undergone a change. Rabin has crossed the point of no-return in his commitment to implement the agreement with 'Arafat. In recent months, Rabin and Peres have received actual proof that 'Arafat is taking measures against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad.

This is the background to Rabin's remarks yesterday that "there are also partners on the Palestinian side in reaching a solution, which did not exist in the past." The circle around Rabin stopped deriding 'Arafat long ago. Rabin now regards the PLO leader as a credible partner with whom the Oslo accord can be implemented on the West Bank.

Rabin heard the insults leveled at him yesterday at the site of the attack. Unlike in the past, this time he preferred to act with restraint toward the protesters — and not only out of consideration for their pain. Unlike in the past, Rabin is at peace with the decision to give the Palestinians an independent entity on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Nevertheless, it is clear to him that he is facing a sharp ideological dispute with the right wing, and he is now prepared to listen.

The immediate conclusion from this line of thinking on Rabin's part — whose results we will witness in the coming days — will be to instruct the negotiators to expedite the talks with the Palestinians with the aim of completing them in the very near future.

Cabinet 'Almost Unanimously' Supports More Talks

TA2407150395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Most cabinet ministers support continuing the talks with the Palestinians. Minister Shim'on Shetrit is on his own in calling for stopping the talks in order to rethink positions. Our party affairs

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correspondent Sefi Hendler reports on the stands of the ministers in the wake of this morning's terrorist attack.

[Begin recording] [Hendler] The cabinet almost unanimously supports the positions of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Despite the attack, the political negotiations will not be stopped except for a break of several days. [passage omitted]

In a minority hawkish position is Minister Shim'on Shetrit. We have to rethink our general position, he said.

[Shetrit] We must not make haste, especially not in such hard times. We must not say that others can dictate the pace to us.

[Hendler] But that is a minority position. The cabinet has not held a debate on the issue, but it is clear to all that the positions of Rabin and Peres are decisive. The negotiations will continue.

No-Confidence Motions on 'Terrorism' Defeated

TA2407174895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 24 July reports on the Knesset debate held today on five motions of no confidence in the government submitted by the opposition parties over the surge in terrorism following the slaying of two Israelis in Wadi al-Qilt last week. "The first speaker was Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu, who called on the government to take action against the terror and to immediately take a break in the talks to reassess the situation. What is needed is a different government, one that will defend the lives of Jews here, Netanyahu said.

"National Religious Party Chairman Zvulun Hammer said this no-confidence motion is not just on behalf of political parties but it cries out from every home in Israel.

"Tzomet Chairman Refa'el Eytan said: We have been offered further proof about the identity of the people we are negotiating with. All the opposition speakers urged Rabin to demand that 'Arafat extradite the terrorist killers."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 24 July reports: "Replying to the no-confidence motions, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that the government does not need to take a break in the peace process and that it will pursue it until an agreement is attained. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Minister Peres stated that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would retain responsibility for the safety of worshipers at Rachel's Tomb. A route from Jerusalem to the site will be assigned which will be fully guarded by the army, the minister said."

Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 24 July adds that the no-confidence motions were defeated by a majority of 61 votes against, 53 votes in favor, and 1 abstention.

Police Minister: No Decision on Gaza Closure

TA2407113095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has imposed a full closure on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian residents of these areas have been banned from entering Israel.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal told Qol Yisra'el that no decision has been reached on the duration of the closure. Shahal asserted there will be no recourse but to implement some sort of separation plan. The police minister stressed that thousands of Palestinians infiltrate into Israel every day without undergoing security checks and noted it is extremely difficult to prevent terrorist attacks under such conditions. Shahal praised the efforts of the security forces over the past few months and said they have prevented many attempted terrorist attacks.

Police sources told our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that there will apparently be no choice but to reexamine the issue of bus security and the widespread implementation of measures already in use in several parts of the country.

Commentary on Bus Attack, Coexistence 'Myth'

TA2407161895 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The following Judean Voice Report is based upon information contained on the major wire services, Israeli Radio and eyewitness accounts:

6 DEAD AND 32 INJURED IN BUS ATTACK IN TEL AVIV

Six Jews have been reported dead, 32 injured, seven seriously injured in an Arab terrorist attack on a Dan bus near the diamond district of Tel Aviv, at 8:00 AM, at the peak of rush-hour. Police believe it was the work of a suicide bomber connected to Yahya 'Ayyash, known as the "engineer" and responsible for the planning of previous fatal attacks against Jews and Israelis. He is the most wanted Arab terrorist in Israel.

The explosion blew the bus apart and scattered body parts and blood throughout the bus and on the nearby street.

Police are searching the area for additional bombs and helping to escort Arab workers out of Tel Aviv, for

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fear of reprisal attacks against them by Jews seeking revenge.

"Peace" talks in the Dead Sea resort were frozen for several hours following condemnation of the attack by Rabin and 'Arafat who both promised to continue with the process.

Hundreds of protesters appeared near the scene of the attack shouting "death to Arabs", "death to Rabin" and "Kahane to power".

'Ezer Weizman, Israel's president said that something needed to be done or the terrorism would continue. Judean Voice Commentary:

The politicians of Israel lack the wisdom and the courage to do that which needs to be done to secure the lives of the Jewish people in Israel. They love themselves and their own narrow political aspirations more than they love the Jewish people. The same is true for the right, left, religious and secular politicians.

If they really loved Jews they would remove the Arabs from Israel and stop spreading the fatal myth of about Jewish and Arab coexistence.

When the angry Jews in the street shout Kahane, they know what they are talking about. They have learned on their skin that all of the others are frauds. Indeed, their are two alternatives, Kahane or 'Arafat. Labor had the courage to choose 'Arafat. The right lacks the courage and the vision to admit they were wrong. In the meantime, Jewish blood is being spilled.

Demonstrations Staged on Bombing, Talks, Tomb

TA2507104595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Jul 95 p A5

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dozens of demonstrations were staged in Israel last night in protest against the Ramat Gan bombing and demanding that the talks with the Palestinians be suspended.

Dozens to hundreds of people attended the various demonstrations. The main demonstrations were staged in front of Orient House in Jerusalem; outside Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's Jerusalem residence; and at the site of the attack, on the corner of Jabotinsky and Aba Hilel Streets in Ramat Gan. Some of the speakers at the demonstrations demanded that the second stage of the Oslo agreement be approved by the people prior to its implementation.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza condemned the grave attack yesterday, saying that "stopping the talks does not mean surrender to terror but rather surrender to reason and to the reality which refuses to accommodate the government's wishes. The government remains insensitive to and removed from the public. It is not attuned to the people's feelings and does not listen to their requests that the mad and irresponsible race of concessions stop, both for reasons of security as well as the Jewish-Zionist mission."

The Aharay [Follow Me] group of reserve officers, identified with the right wing, stated yesterday that the Ramat Gan attack constitutes "the Palestinian bon voyage wishes for the implementation of the second stage of the Oslo agreement." They added that "the murderous attack should remind all the enlightened peace seekers of the Palestinians' real goals and once again proves that 'Arafat cannot prevent terror. Arrests do not scare terrorists."

The officers movement called on the residents of Israel to take to the streets and physically prove to the prime minister that "the continued implementation of the Oslo agreement must be stopped at once."

Activists from extraparliamentary right-wing movements met at Rachel's Tomb yesterday to coordinate their moves. The various organizations mainly discussed launching a campaign to win a public and parliamentary majority for early elections or for a referendum prior to the implementation of the second stage of the Oslo agreement.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 25 July carries an ITIM report on page 5 adding: "Some 3,000 people from all over the country converged on Joseph's Tomb in Nabulus yesterday to pray for the safe release of Israel's missing soldiers and to protest the government peace policies.

['The army eventually closed off the area, saying that the permit for the gathering was for only 750 participants."]

Peres Accosted at Rachel's Tomb

TA2407161795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres had to be extricated by his bodyguards from demonstrators at Rachel's Tomb on the outskirts of Bethlehem.

Peres had gone for an on-the-spot inspection and discussions with army officers and rabbinical authorities, but he was met by right-wing protesters, who shouted insults until he was escorted away. The foreign minister's visit to Rachel's Tomb was intended to study access, which may be restricted when IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment goes into effect.

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Rabin, Mayor Meet on Tomb, Orient House

TA2507082695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Jul 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rachel's Tomb will remain under Israeli control, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reportedly told Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert last night.

Rabin and Olmert met to discuss the future of the holy site, as well as the controversy surrounding the operations of Orient House and illegal Arab building in eastern Jerusalem.

"There were no disagreements on any major issue," a source said.

Olmert has long maintained that Rachel's Tomb, located less than half a kilometer from Jerusalem's municipal boundaries, must remain under Israeli control.

Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan said last night that government officials found a way to link the site with the Jerusalem municipal boundaries, and that it would not be turned over to the Palestinians.

"Rachel's Tomb will be completely under Israel's control. There will be no Palestinian policemen there," Dayan said on Israel TV's Popolitika program.

Interior Minister Ehud Baraq attended part of the Olmert-Rabin meeting. The three agreed to meet shortly to make final decisions concerning Orient House and illegal Arab construction in Jerusalem, the sources said.

Earlier in the day, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset that there will be a special road from Jerusalem to Rachel's Tomb guarded by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] so that Jews will be able to get to the tomb in safety.

Peres tried hard to convince the plenum that nothing had changed, pointing out that even under Likud Judaea and Samaria were not part of Israel.

Minister Says Rachel's Tomb Important to Public

TA2207133895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit says giving up control of Rachel's Tomb might undermine public support for the peace process with the Palestinians. He told Israel Radio it could be a dangerous precedent as regards Israeli control over the Patriarchs Tomb, and even the Western Wall. Negotiators with the Palestinians had erred in comparing Rachel's Tomb with the ancient synagogue in Jericho, because the tomb was the second most important site for Jewish people, Shetrit said.

Der'i on SHAS Principles for W. Bank Accord

TA2507105195 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jul 95 p 22

[Report by Arye Bender]

[FBIS Translated Text] SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] would support a permanent arrangement that entails the evacuation of dozens of settlements in Judaea and Samaria. This was stated yesterday by Knesset Member Arye Der'i. Addressing the Knesset plenum, Der'i presented, for the first time, the principles for a political arrangement on the West Bank that are acceptable to Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef and SHAS.

Der'i was speaking at the Knesset debate on the motions of no confidence in the government submitted by the opposition parties. The main points of Der'i's plan are: stopping the negotiations on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment; launching talks on the permanent solution at once; annexing Jewish population centers and giving away Arab ones; exchanging territories and populations; and presenting the agreement for the nation's endorsement.

Der'i explained: "We must proceed to tackle the permanent arrangement at once and annex areas populated by Jews, which would entail the removal of dozens of isolated settlements."

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Officials, Press React to Ramat Gan Bombing
Al-Kabariti Condemns 'Terrorist' Attack

JN2407145795 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has condemned the terrorist operation that took place in Tel Aviv today in which eight Israelis were killed and 32 others were wounded.

Asked about the bombing by the Jordanian News Agency, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said that the Jordanian stand on terrorist actions is well known, steady, and clear; it is one of utter and outright rejection of the form and substance of these terrorist actions that serve no cause or interest other than those of the enemies of peace. He added that these actions complicate and reflect negatively on all the region's issues and more specifically harm the peace process.

Paper Views Bombing, Leaders' Responses

JN2507065195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Jul 95 p 6

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation [PLO], France, the U.S. and many other nations were quick to condemn and denounce in the strongest possible terms yesterday's suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv that killed six people and injured 32. Both the Palestinians and the Israelis were also quick to announce that the bloody attack was waged by anti—peace elements whose major aim was to torpedo the progressing talks between the two sides. Israeli negotiators broke the talks to mourn their dead but resumed them a few hours later in a bid to show their determination to stay on the course that has been chosen to end the conflict once and for all.

It was wise and courageous of the PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, to condemn the attack and of the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, to announce the continuation of the talks. Both men, through cooperation and goodwill, were able to halt the suicide bombing attacks for the past six months; and yesterday's attack should only strengthen their resolve to meet the same objective. It is therefore of utmost urgency that the talks continue, that Israel redeploy its troops and that Palestinian elections be held in all west bank towns and villages.

The Arab-Israeli conflict, with what it has entailed in acts of violence and counter-violence, will not end before finding an acceptable solution to the Palestinian question. No matter how many agreements are signed between the Arabs and Israel, our people, and no doubt many Israelis as well, will not believe in that peace unless Israel is willing to accept Palestinian self-determination and their right to establish their own state. We believe that Israel and the Palestinians can and will reach agreement on the "redeployment" issue soon. But what is even more important in the quest to end the nearly century-old conflict through compromise, is to have a clear vision and new determination to reach the final settlement. Shlomo Gazit, a former Israeli army chief of intelligence, wrote in a recent article that he finds it difficult to understand Israel's reluctance to do what is necessary for this settlement. "This sidestepping and avoidance is one of the things preventing the Palestinian side from deciding in principle to end the violent struggle against Israel," he said. "And as long as they (Palestinians) attain their goal (of statehood), we cannot demand that they lay down their arms,"

The Israelis may not like to be reminded of Mr. Gazit's conclusion on this sad day in their history. But it is as true for them as for us that once the Palestinians achieve their final objective, "there will no longer be any point in continuing the struggle."

Paper Views Palestinian Loss in Bombing

JN2507074795 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 17

[Editorial: "Tel Aviv Operation Serves Israel's Objectives"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The immediate result of the bus bombing near Tel Aviv yesterday was a complete security closure of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which causes further nuisance and suffering for the people there.

It is known that the occupation authorities, who carried out various acts of violence in the West Bank and Gaza throughout the years of occupation, have for some time harassed citizens by preventing them from going to work where it is available and by imposing security closures whenever there are incidents.

It is also known that attempts to blemish the reputation of the Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims have been growing in the western states since the end of the Cold War. They are accused of violence and terrorism, even when they are innocent, such as in the recent bombing in Oklahoma.

The Tel Aviv bombing falls within this framework. By comparing the material and moral costs of the bombing to Israel, whose losses are limited to only a passenger bus and a few individuals, with the losses to the Palestinians, one can clearly see that Palestine and the right of its people are the real losers from such acts, which cannot liberate a land, end an occupation, or stop the distortion of the image of the Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims. They are falsely accused by the West of

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violence and terrorism, citing ineffective and random acts of violence as examples.

The Arab region and the Palestinian leadership have pursued negotiations to attain rights and to establish peace. Therefore, any act that gives Israel the excuse to avoid returning rights and withdrawal under the pretext of security against terrorism will, in the end, serve Israel, even if such an act was intended to achieve other objectives. Acts are judged by their results. The results of the bus bombing in Tel Aviv are as negative, if not more negative, than those of all the previous acts that helped Israel realize its aims to procrastinate and delay negotiations and to impose various forms of suffering on the steadfast citizens in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Paper: Israel 'Unprepared for Genuine Peace'

JN2507085895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 30

["Highlights" column by Tahir al-'Adwan: "Israel's Red Lines"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The security of the State of Israel is different from the security of the Israeli citizen. As a state, Israel possess a massive military arsenal. For example, it gets the most advanced technology from the Pentagon (the U.S. Department of Defense), is associated with the U.S. Star Wars program, and has recently received U.S. material and technological support to develop and manufacture anti-missile weapons. This means that the security of Israel as a state is now guaranteed. But what about the security of the Israeli citizen?

The personal security of Israelis is a Palestinian grant. If the security of the Israeli state can be guaranteed through genuine peace treaties with the Arab states, the security of the Israeli individual can only be guaranteed through genuine, and I underline the word genuine, peace treaties with the Palestinians.

Whenever a Palestinian operation is carried out in Tel Aviv, the Israelis lose their mind. Instead of learning and moving in a positive direction — the direction of genuine peace — they move in an opposite direction, confirming to Palestinians that peace with Israel is only a summer dream and that the language of violence and its vicious cycle, and not the language of dialogue, is the appropriate language to use.

At every step in negotiations to implement the provisions of the Oslo Agreement, the Israelis place on the table their security demands. With time, the Palestinian track of negotiations was required to solve the complication of the Israelis' personal security and not the Palestine question. They think that security, which is based on the concepts of expansionism, settlement activities, hegemony, and occupation, is the road that will lead to peace with the Palestinians. They strongly reject the undeniable fact that peace leads to security.

Yesterday's bombing in Tel Aviv, which occurred hours before the 25 July deadline, may be used by the Israelis as a pretext to delay implementing their commitments to redeploy their troops and to hold the elections. However, the Palestinians know, deep in their heart, that the fulfillment of these commitments is delayed because of Israeli intentions, which remain very far from the concept of peace. Moreover, every one, including even those who advocate the Oslo Agreement, is becoming more convinced that the Israelis are still unprepared for a genuine peace with the Palestinians.

It is now time to start speaking frankly and to stop denouncing and condemning every suicide operation. It is time to say that the no's of Rabin's government and its red security lines are providing a permanent environment for violence, which began to seem to be the alternative to a peace plan that is collapsing under impossible Israeli security demands.

AL-SABIL on 'Martyrdom' Operation

JN2507103695 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 25-31 Jul p 11

[Unattributed report: "'Ayyash Pursues Them to Tel Aviv: Dozens of Casualties in a Martyrdom Operation That Shook Enemy Entity"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In confirmation of expectations and fears voiced by Palestinian and Israeli circles recently on the possibility of the Palestinian resistance movements, especially Hamas and Islamic Jihad, resuming qualitative military operations against the Zionist occupation, a martyrdom-courting Palestinian, whose identity has not been revealed yet, carried out a qualitiatve martyrdom operation in the heart of Tel Aviv when he blew himself up in a Zionist bus near a road crossing in Ramat Gan Monday morning, 24 July, while the bus was heading for the center of Tel Aviv. [passage omitted]

King Restates Bosnia Stand, Condemns Bus Attack

JN2407133195 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Speech by King Husayn at a meeting with the newly-elected heads and members of the municipal councils at al-Husayn Sports City in Amman on 24 July—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] On the political level, we have always tried to state our point

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of view. I believe we express the conscience of our Arab and Islamic nation and the individual in this world when we call for a firm stand in the face of aggression, evil, harm, killings, and human rights violations. I pursue contacts with the five permanent UN Security Council members. I sent to the four Arab and Islamic countries which assume the responsibility of contacting the world in this respect [pauses] I contacted friends, some of whom are close, while others are not so close. I contacted all so that we may adopt a stand. Our soldiers and young men are in former Yugoslavia. They have offered much and have been a model to others. We are discussing all possibilities that may be available to us to offer more. However, we refuse that our soldiers, who are part of the peace-keeping forces or the UN forces, be treated as some UN forces have been treated as we have seen on television and heard about.

This aggression must stop. We also must continue our humanitarian role. We should remain in the forefront as is our custom. I believe that last Friday Jordan embodied the essence of the entire Arab and Islamic nation whether they do as we have done, or might perform such a duty in the future, God willing [applause]. This is in addition to what the concerned parties are doing in coordination with the Bosnian government and the international bodies.

God willing, a plane full of medicines and food and a medical team will leave here tomorrow. The team will be headed by his highness the crown prince and represents the Jordanian Hashemite Charitable Society and all of us. The team will deliver these materials to the former Yugoslavia. On its return, and if circumstances allow, we will transport a number of wounded whom we will host here and give treatment. [passage omitted]

Now, everybody is moving toward the achievement of peace. The Palestinian brethren are about to reach the second agreement to expand their control over their land and salvage their people and our people. Unfortunately, there has been an ugly incident today. It seems that the aim of this incident is to cripple this march and, hence, the possibility of accomplishing that goal. We hope that nothing of this sort will happen. We denounce enticing our youths and pushing them toward such a labyrinth, thus causing them to stand by those who fight and reject peace. This will bring further agony, harm, and suffering for the Palestinians and all people. When we hear of such incidents we look at ourselves and each of us can imagine a car exploding in the middle of Amman among the innocent, unarmed people, women and children; what would our position be? [passage omitted]

Jordanian-Israeli Relief Mission Leaves for Bosnia Crown Prince Accompanies Team

JN2507100495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur bade farewell to Crown Prince Hasan, who left Amman this morning, accompanied by a Jordanian medical aid team, for Bosnia-Herzegovina on board a Jordanian plane carrying medical and humanitarian aid material. This is the first trip of a joint Jordanian-Israeli relief mission to help the Bosnian people. It is also part of the Jordanian ceaseless effort in the relief campaign.

King Views Joint Mission With Israel

JN2507104895 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] In statements to the press, His Majesty King Husayn said: This trip has one meaning only. That is our concern about the tragedy facing our kinsfolk and brothers in that afflicted part of the world. My brother Crown Prince Hasan's travel today reflects the feelings of all Jordanian people, who expressed these feelings on an unforgettable day, last Friday [21 July].

His majesty added: This is not the first plane. Other planes carrying aid have left to Bosnia. Today marks the anniversary of the Washington Declaration. Therefore, and to be fair, I must say that the Israeli prime minister was the first to respond favorably to me regarding the situation in Bosnia and the needs of the people there, given that our peoples have also faced reppression, whether in Andalusia in the past, or in Europe, or here in this region.

Prime Minister Calls For Japan Action in UN on Serbs

JN2407201095 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 24 Jul 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir expressed hope that Japan would take an action at the United Nations that would bring about deterrent measures against Serb aggression in Bosnia.

The prime minister made the remarks during a meeting with Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Hisashi Owada. Al-Sharif Zayd reviewed with the Japanese official efforts being exerted in the Middle East multilateral talks and Japan's positive and effective role

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in them. The prime minister also thanked Japan for its supportive stand towards Jordan.

On his part, Owada reiterated his country's support for Jordan's political and economic efforts in peace-making and regional development.

Cabinet Endorses Cooperation Agreement With Israel

JN2507090795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 32

[Report by Maysa' Ghayth]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Cabinet has endorsed a draft agreement for cooperation in the field of energy and earth sciences between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel. The endorsement was at the recommendation of Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, and a special committee set up to study that agreement. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Addresses Journalists at Luncheon

Speaks on Elections, Economy, Region

JN2407112095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 95 , pp 1, 7

[Report by 'Abdallah Hasanat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir Sunday [23 July] brushed aside Islamists' accusations that the government rigged the July 11 municipal elections and challenged them to go to court if they can prove their allegations.

"The government did not rig the elections nor did it manipulate them in any way," al-Sharif Zayd asserted during a meeting with local editors and columnists. "If it (The Islamic Action Front) has any proof, let is go to the courts as I said at the time" of the elections.

The Prime Minister also warned the Islamists, who lead opposition against normal relations with Israel, not to cross the limits into "seditious agitation."

"We will not allow anyone to agitate the people into sedition," al-Sharif Zayd warned. The government will not force anyone to normalise or trade with Israel. Likewise, the government will not tolerate seditious agitation" against the regime.

The Prime Minister, who was addressing chief editors and columnists during a luncheon he hosted at the Inter-Continental Hotel, said that "normalisation of relations with Israel is progressing at a good pace, although there are some outstanding issues." He did not elaborate.

Al-Sharif Zayd admitted that the government performance was below his expectation and that "There is room for improvement. [quotation marks as published] However, he said that speculations that the government lacked coordination among its members were exaggerated.

"There is coordination and we have a good economic team and we are working around the clock to prepare for MENA." He did not rule out a reshuffle of his cabinet but hinted such reshuffle might only come after the current extraordinary session of Parliament ends in October.

"This a coalition government, like my former government. I brought "17 deputies in to ensure a working relationship with the (lower) house (of Parliament)," he said.

Asked if he would include Islamists in any future reshuffle, al-Sharif Zayd said: "There is no inclination to bring in the Islamists."

During the two-hour encounter with the journalists, al-Sharif Zayd revealed that his government has formulated a number of laws that would liberalise the economy and create the right atmosphere for investment in preparation for the Middle East and North African (MENA) Economic Summit that will be held in Amman in October.

He said the government had discussed the package extensively with the private sector. Asked whether he through [as published] the draft laws would clear both houses of Parliament before the extraordinary session ends in October, the prime minister jokingly said: "Do you want to bet?"

The prime minister, however, warned against exaggerated expectations from the summit.

"I myself am optimistic," he said. "But I warn against over-optimism. We want the conference to benefit the whole region."

Al-Sharif Zayd said he thought the Jordanian economy was performing very well despite "many voices of complaint." "Inflation in the past six months was only 0.2 per cent higher than in the first six months of 1994," he said. "All economic indicators are showing a health trend."

The prime minister, however, ruled out any wage increases at the time being.

The prime minister noted with satisfaction the U.S. Congress endorsement of the decision to write off $750 million of debt to the U.S.

The prime minister characterised relations with Syria as "normal" and with Egypt as "good," saying both could be improved.

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He described Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti's visit to Riyadh early this month and the talks Mr. al-Kabariti held with Saudi leaders as "successful" and "warm."

"We expect relations to improve with the rest of Gulf countries, but not necessarily immediately with Kuwait, once they improve with Saudi Arabia," he said. He added that Mr. al-Kabariti was expected to visit Saudi Arabia soon.

Asked whether it was possible that the international community could not make an exemption to Jordan to help and trade with Iraq since Jordan did not manufacture weapons, al-Sharif Zayd said that "we are doing all we can do to help the Iraqi people. The Iraqis have made great sacrifices for the Arab causes" along the years.

Al-Sharif Zayd said that during a meeting with Palestinian leader Faysal Husayni Sunday, he reiterated Jordan's commitment to help the Palestinians attain their rights.

"There are certain parties that are attempting to poison our relations (with the Palestinians," he said. [parentheses as published] "But our objective is to (help the Palestinians) end the occupation. We have no plan to annex the West Bank" as some might think. Once the Palestinians attained their independence and regained their free well, we will talk about future relations," he said.

The prime minister revealed that the government has agreed with the House Judiciary and Finance Committee to introduce a clause to the draft law concerning the boycott of Israel. The amendment prohibits Jordanians owning land in the occupied West Bank, including Jerusalem, from selling to Israel.

Asked why would Jordan keep its troops in the former Yugoslavia despite the deteriorating situation there, the prime minister said the 3,500 troops were part of the U.N. peacekeeping forces and can only be pulled out if the U.N. decided to end their mandate.

"Besides, if we withdrew unilaterally our troops will be in danger," he said. "But we have full understanding with the French and will act in full cooperation with the French government" on the issue.

The Prime Minister acknowledged reports that the government was preparing new custom tariff lists but declined to give any details.

The luncheon was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khalid al-Karaki. The journalists represented the mainstream, press, the tabloids and political parties newspapers. None of the leftist or Islamists newspapers' editors were present.

Speaks on Arab Solidarity, Iraqi Embargo

JN2407121795 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Jul 95 pp 1, 21

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir has said that the concept of Arab solidarity governs our Jordanian policy and that our relations with our arab brothers are based on genuine Jordanian values and mutual respect and noninterference in others' affairs and policies, placing the higher pan-Arab interests above self-interests.

He added: We do not raise slogans without content and we do not accuse anyone of treason or of harboring bad intentions just as we do not allow anyone to do this to us.

During a working luncheon with a group of journalists at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel yesterday, he said that our relations with the Arab brothers are good while our relations with some countries, which became lukewarm or were interrupted during the Gulf war, are showing a tangible improvement that augurs well. [passage omitted]

The prime minister reiterated Jordan's stand on the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people. He said: We are offering them more than our capacity, not as a favor but out of loyalty to these people who have offered a great deal to their nation. He noted that Iraqi officials stood against Jordanian political figures who tried to attack Jordan. He added: We must remember that Jordan is everyone's country and is not only for those who are in government or who have positions of responsibility. [passage omitted]

King, Prime Minister Meet With Greek Minister

JN2407200495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn received Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias in the presence of Crown Prince Hasan at the Royal Court this morning. Papoulias also met with His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir before departing Amman today. More in the following report by our political correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab:

[Begin Dhiyab recording] The two sides reviewed relations between Jordan and Greece. Papoulias stressed the importance of this distinguished relationship. He said Greece is looking forward to the meeting of the higher joint committee scheduled for next October

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to discuss issues of concern to the two countries, particularly economic relations and other issues.

Papoulias also asserted the Greek Government's support for Jordan in all international fora, particularly on the level of the European Union, and his country's support for Jordan's initiative to upgrade the inter-faith dialogue — an initiative that was launched by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan. The meeting was attended by Marwan al- Qasim, chief of the Hashemite Royal Court; Foreign Minister 'Abd-al- Karim al-Kabariti; and the Jordanian ambassador in Greece.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir praised Greece's positions, which have always supported the Ar[illegible]ht, and eagerness to strengthen its ties with the Arab states. During a meeting with the Greek foreign minister in the presence of Foreign Minister 'Abd- al-Karim al-Kabariti, the prime minister said: We are all very disappointed over the failure of the major countries and the United Nations to take swift, practical, and deterring measures to halt the atrocities and injustice practiced against Bosnia-Herzegovina and a people seeking to live in peace. He referred to the special relations between Greece and Serbia and the efforts Greece can undertake to stop the ongoing acts of aggression against Bosnia and its peaceful people.

His excellency also underscored the need for pressing ahead with efforts to secure the success of peace talks between Arab states and Israel so as to realize a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. He said that special care should be given to the issue of Jerusalem. He voiced hope that a Palestinian-Israeli agreement would be reached — an agreement that would pave the way for the final-status talks to create the Palestinian state with its capital in Arab Jerusalem.

On his part, Papoulias paid tribute to the wisdom and courage of His Majesty King Husayn and commended Jordan's political moves that accomplished peace and which contribute to making this peace a just, comprehensive, and lasting one. He said Greece will take part in the Middle East and North Africa conference for economic development scheduled to be held in Amman in October. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Al-Husayni Says 'Arafat To Visit Jordan 'Soon'

JN2407171895 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior Palestinian official Faysal al-Husayni has said Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat is to visit Jordan soon for talks with his majesty the king to exchange views on the latest Middle East peace developments, particularly the issue of Jerusalem.

At a press conference, Mr. al-Husayni said the meeting between his majesty the king and the Palestinian leader is very essential since both are keen on developing bilateral relations. He added his talks with Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti asserted Jordanian readiness to support the Palestinians in the self-ruled areas.

On the Jerusalem issue, Mr. al-Husayni said Palestinian existence in Arab East Jerusalem is politically, socially, and religiously clear, but Israel is still grabbing the security dimension. He added Arab leaders have to discuss this matter internationally in view that this situation will affect international stands on Jerusalem.

King To Meet With Mubarak in Alexandria 27 Jul

JN2507095095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Well-informed sources told AL-RA'Y that His Majesty King Husayn and his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will meet in Alexandria on Thursday [27 July].

The two leaders will discuss current regional affairs, headed by the Middle East peace process and the distinguished Jordanian-Egyptian relations.

King Husayn will also congratulate President Mubarak on his safety following the assassination attempt in Addis Ababa late last month.

Egyptian-Sudanese tension, which aggravated after the assassination attempt, is expected to be on the summit agenda.

His majesty the king first spoke about this trip to Egypt during the Yemeni president's visit to Amman.

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Hizballah Fighters Training in Advanced Weapons

NC2407131695 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 17 Jul 95 p 8

[Report by Subhi Mundhir Yaghi]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Hizballah leadership has started to draw up action plans in light of the party's organizational conference, which reelected Hasan Nasrallah as its secretary general. The two most important issues discussed were, first, the Resistance and the need to develop and activate it during this stage and, second, Hizballah's Lebanese policy.

Some sources reported that the Hizballah leadership is seeking changes in its tactics against the Israeli army after the Resistance has obtained advanced offensive and defensive weapons. Fighters have already started training in the use of these weapons in areas that are very remote from the confrontation lines and the training is done by military experts who are specialists in "guerrilla warfare."

Politically, the reelection of Nasrallah is a sign of the preponderance of the view inside the party, with Iranian approval of course, that calls for openness toward all the Lebanese political centers and forces while simultaneously preparing to wage the battle of preventing normalization in every sphere if the peace talks ultimately end in peace. It was as part of this policy that the party agreed to join the second government of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, but U.S. intervention prevented this. According to the Hizballah leadership, this intervention was meant to maintain Hizballah's image as an abnormal, odd, and unrecognized phenomenon.

The new leadership is very much interested in making the party more Lebanese and involving it politically and organically in the country's democratic game to secure its continuing existence and policy, even when circumstances would render it without weapons and a human military machine.

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Radio Program Reports 'Martyrdom Operation'

JN2407171495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Unattributed report from the "Palestine" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new martyrdom operation took place at the Ramat Gan settlement, near Tel Aviv this morning. The operation was carried out by a Palestinian intifadah youth.

Israeli radio said this operation targeted an Israeli bus, adding that a huge number of police and army forces rushed to the scene and closed off the area.

Press agencies said more than eight Israelis were killed and more than 32 others were injured in this martyrdom operation. AFP said the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, claimed responsibility.

In a first Israeli reaction to this operation, the Israeli Government decided to close off the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and prevented Palestinians from these two areas from entering 1948 occupied Palestine.

This martyrdom operation emphasizes that there will not be any security and stability for the Israelis whether in occupied Palestine of 1948, or in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as long as the Israeli Government adheres to its occupation of the Arab territories and refuses to withdraw from these territories, and as long as it continues to construct more settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and settle Jews in the occupied Arab territories.

The Oslo agreement and subsequent agreements did not, and will not achieve peace in the region. They will not ensure protection, security, and stability for the Israelis before they ensure these things for others. Security cannot be realized for one party at the expense of the security of another party, and peace cannot be realized in the region unless it is just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of the international legitimacy and the Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 435 [last figure as heard], and the land-for-peace principle, which call for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, dismantling and removing settlements from these territories, and ensuring the legitimate and national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Damascus Radio: Israeli 'Terrorism' To Be Punished

JN2407191095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 Jul 95

["Palestine" program: "Talk of the Return" by Fayiz Qandil]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother strugglers: A year and five months have passed since the extremely barbaric, brutal massacre perpetrated by Israel through the murderer Israeli soldier Baruch Goldstein at the holy Ibrahimi Mosque in the city of Hebron.

This morning too, it has been three weeks since the assassination of the heroic Palestinian Arab martyr Tahir Qafishah by the Israeli colonialist army in Hebron. His house, along with a number of other houses, was also destroyed. Also, two weeks have passed since Israel's assassination of the children of the Budayr family in al-Nabatiyah in southern Lebanon. A month and a half has passed since the crime perpetrated by the Israeli soldier Hani'el Qoren at Saint Anthony's Church in the city of Yafo. Had it not been for God's mercy, this crime could have turned into a massacre similar to the holy Ibrahimi Mosque massacre. Some 48 hours have also passed today since the infiltration of the wolves of the Israeli Qiryat Arba' settlers into the city of Hebron under the protection of the Israeli colonialist army, as well as their attack on the Palestinian Arab citizens in Hebron. Also, two months have passed since the same Israelis' invasion of Hebron and their burning of the wheat stores to starve its lofty Arab people. This took place when Israel celebrated the eradication of the plague from Palestine 2,000 years ago, or, perhaps, in the stone age, as they claim.

We could spend many hours numerating the crimes of the Mosad, Shin Bet, and the Kakh, Shas, and Gush Emunim movements. This is in addition to the Israeli colonialist army in Palestine and southern Lebanon. These crimes are aimed at assassinating Palestinian and Lebanese citizens on a daily basis. However, we prefer now to take a glance at Israel's encroachment on the people's living needs; namely, Israel's usurpation of the morsel of bread from the mouths of the Arab children in southern Lebanon through the scorched earth policy, the sea blockade, the prevention of the Lebanese fishermen from earning a living, the siege on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the deprivation of Palestinian workers, farmers, and peasants of work, as well as preventing them from exporting their produce. Israel enjoys seeing the Palestinian Arab people and their families sell their furniture to buy a loaf of bread. Israel also enjoys seeing the heroic Palestinian people fall below the poverty, and maybe, the starvation line.

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Not only this, Israel also created a new type of colonialism, which did not previously exist, namely, usurpation of water. The Jews in Jerusalem and in the settlements of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, are there illegally. Their presence there is similar to that of the colonialist Israeli army. In fact, they constitute a division of, or a backing army to, the colonialist Israeli army. Despite this abnormal and illegal situation — which the international community must end immediately by evicting Israeli colonialists from Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip — Israel wants to usurp four-fifths of the West Bank and Gaza water and leave the 3 million Palestinians one-fifth of their water.

This new colonialism, which is new to everybody, is one of Israel's creations and its latest gift to the world's record on barbarism and brutality. This colonialism, which even Hitler did not register in the Nazi records, is now being registered by Israel in the world's record on Israeli and Nazi barbarism.

Israel wants to kill the Palestinian Arab people and their agriculture through thirst by enabling Israeli parasites in the occupied Palestinian territory to take three baths a day. Israel builds large swimming pools in settlements where no more than 50 parasites live, at the expense of drinking water. In other words, Israel provides those parasites with recreational facilities at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people's right to life. Such injustice cannot be done even by the devil himself.

Thus, the earth was shaken in Ramat Gan, an affluent area of Tel Aviv, this morning. It was a roaring Palestinian Arab cry in the wilderness of Israeli barbarism: O barbaric Israeli invaders and killers, wake up from your arrogance, because injustice will not last. Israeli terrorism will not go without Palestinian Arab punishment. The Israeli killer should realize that he will be killed sooner or later.

Press Says Israeli Policy Impedes Chance of Peace

JN2507081595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 Jul 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "International Law Rather Than Law of the Jungle," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Israeli practices have killed the chances for any progress on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations. This is the outcome of the Tel Aviv rulers' failure to commit themselves clearly to complete withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders. Israel has constantly confronted Syria's basic demand of honoring the land-for-peace formula by evasion and by various pretexts. Israel has not adhered to the set of understandings reached on parallel [mutawaziyah] security arrangements and security equitability [takafu'] by insisting on what it calls warning stations — namely, the perpetuation of occupation of part of the Golan, which Syria categorically rejects.

The paper addresses the slander campaign Israel has launched against Syria after it thwarted U.S. Envoy Dennis Ross's mission, saying: There is ample evidence confirming that Israel obstructed this mission. Syria has repeatedly announced that there will be no bargaining over the Golan, and that the achievement of peace is contingent upon a complete Israeli withdrawal.

TISHRIN adds: By withdrawing from the Golan, Israel would not be making concessions, as it is claiming, for the Golan has been Syrian territory since time immemorial. Moreover, the relevant UN Security Council resolutions deem unacceptable occupation and settlement activities, and activities that change the features of the territory.

The paper goes on to say: Peace in the Middle East will uphold international law and the principles in the UN Charter, rather than the law of the jungle. Nonetheless, Israel's intransigent, evasive policy, and insistence on blackmail has killed chances for a breakthrough in the peace process.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Had it been interested in peace, Israel would not have sabotaged the Washington military talks, particularly since it has known over the past four years how firm the Syrian stand is, and how strongly Syria adheres to the constants of peace.

Commenting on the same issue, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Israel's so-called security cannot be promoted at the expense of Arab security and interests. The same argument is true of peace. Israel cannot promote its peace at the expense of the Arabs' peace and interests. Israeli Minister Shulamit Aloni has admitted that Hebron settlers are walking in the footsteps of Bosnian Serbs. By this statement, the Israeli minister highlighted a general state of affairs currently prevailing in Israel that not only characterizes the conduct of the settlers, but also reflects an official policy.

AL-BA'TH holds Israel responsible for the predicament plaguing the peace process and the deterioration in the regional state of affairs caused by the continued Israeli aggressions on southern Lebanon. The paper asserts that the aggressive course it is pursuing is to blame for the insecurity Israel and Jewish settlers are experiencing.

The paper believes that Israeli security will remain a problem as long as Israel maintains its intransigent positions and terrorist course, and as long as it maintains its refusal to comply with the principles of international

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legitimacy, which alone can achieve just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Under the headline "The Clear Principle," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH addresses the same issue, saying: Israel is advancing security pretexts to justify its hegemonistic policies, to hold on to the occupied territories, and to evade complete withdrawal from the Golan and other occupied territories. These pretexts are unrealistic and unsound. This is because just and comprehensive peace alone can provide security and stability for all sides. Only just and comprehensive peace can bring stability and prosperity to all peoples of the region.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The absence of just and comprehensive peace will exacerbate the situation and leave the door open for violence and chaos. Additionally, the current Israeli position, which is evading the requirements for peace and offering only an ambiguous and mysterious withdrawal from part of the Golan, will, if maintained, produce results that cannot promote peace. Nor can this position contribute to progress in the negotiating process.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: The Rabin government must realize that Syria is clear in its positions, and that it will not abandon its rights or territories. The restoration of the entire Golan is a foregone conclusion; it cannot be a topic for bargaining or debate.

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Afghanistan

OIC Envoy Pays Official Visit to Kabul

Discusses UN, OIC Efforts

LD2107211695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, this afternoon met with Ahmad [words indistinct], ambassador and representative extraordinary in Afghanistan of Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC]. During the meeting the two sides exchanged views about further efforts to find a solution to the Afghan problem and also about ensuring the efforts by the United Nations and the OIC are consistent with the present realities in our society. Lafra'i briefed the envoy on the political and military situation in the country and the Afghan proposals for finding a solution to our country's problems. The ambassador, leading a four-man delegation, arrived in Kabul on 21 July. [passage omitted]

Views 'Peace Program' With Mas'ud

LD2207192095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud met today in his residence with Mr. Ahmad [words indistinct], envoy of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], and his accompanying delegation. According to a report by a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent, during the meeting talks were held about a peace program and issues of current interest. Esteemed Fahim, head of national security, and esteemed Dr. 'Abdollah attended the meeting as well.

According to another report, esteemed Mohammad Yunus Qanuni, head of political affairs of the army, today met in his office with Mr. Ahmad [words indistinct], envoy of the OIC, and his accompanying delegation. While Lieutenant General Mohammad Naim Wardag, chief of general staff, and heads of some departments of the Ministry of Defense were present, during the meeting the two sides held talks on issues of interest.

Meets Rabbani, Views National Problems

LD2307185995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday afternoon, Esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, received Ahmad Ensai [name as heard] for a meeting in the presidential palace. The press office of the presidency reported to BAKHTAR that during the meeting talks were held on the new proposals of the Islamic state, the harmonizing of the United Nations and OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] efforts, and the resolving of the Afghan problems.

Continues Talks With Rabbani

LD2407205695 Tehran IRNA in English 2025 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 24, IRNA — The second round of talks between the Organization of [the] Islamic Conference, OIC, delegation with Afghanistan President, Borhanoddin Rabbani was held here Sunday [23 July].

The OIC delegation was headed by an OIC envoy to Afghanistan, Ahmad Ensai.

The results of negotiations held between the delegation with Afghan officials as well as the peace attempts exerted by the U.N. special envoy, Mahmoud Mestiri were discussed in the meeting.

Rabbani also evaluated the OIC and the United Nations attempts to restore peace in Afghanistan as "positive" and said that these activities should be concentrated inside the country.

Ensai, also called for the coordination between the OIC and the United Nations for establishing peace and tranquility in Afghanistan.

He said when the U.N. special envoy's mission failed during the three consecutive rounds, the OIC decided to increase its efforts in Afghanistan to create understanding among the jihad groups.

Further details on the topics of the negotiations and the results achieved are not released yet.

The four-man OIC delegation who is in Kabul as of Friday met and conferred during its stay with the Afghan President, Borhanoddin Rabbani, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami (Islamic Unity) party, Professor A.R. Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami (Islamic Society) party, Ahmad Shah Masud and several other officials of the country.

Cabinet Assails Aggression, Arms Embargo in Bosnia

LD2407174895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chaired by esteemed Acting Prime Minister Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, the cabinet held a session this morning in the Golkhana Palace. The prime minister's press office reported that first, letters and orders by the president were read to the

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cabinet session and then different ministry proposals were discussed and due decisions made.

Later esteemed Ahmadzai and esteemed Foreign Minister Najibollah Lafra'i assessed the country's political and military situation and explained the political developments and the efforts by international forums and domestic sources as regards finding a reasonable solution to the country's problems.

At the end of the meeting the cabinet issued a statement on the situation in Bosnia: While strongly condemning the Serbian aggression against the Bosnian Muslims, we regret that the international community has remained indifferent in this respect. We also demand the lifting of the arms embargo imposed on the Muslim people of Bosnia.

Rebel Commander, Men Defect to Government

LD2007184795 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A commander of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] and his men today came over to the Islamic Army forces side in Ghowr Province.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the men, led by Ahmad Mestari, have ended their hostility against the Islamic state and joined the forces of the Islamic Army in Tawara District, Ghowr Province, after realizing the peace-seeking aims of the Islamic state.

The men were armed with 30 Kalashnikovs, four RAD [preceding acronym as heard in English] rockets, and three PK machine guns. [passage omitted]

Dostam Attack Repulsed in Samangan Province

LD2407172895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An attack by the Dostam militia has been repulsed as a result of the brave resistance by the mojahedin and Islamic army forces in Roi-Doab district, Samangan Province. According to a report from the armed forces sources to BAKHTAR, the Dostam militia mounted an unsuccessful attack from the directions of Jawplan, [word indistinct] in Roi-Doab district last night. The offensive continued until late afternoon today. Strongly defending their positions, the mojahedin and Islamic army forces inflicted heavy loss of life on the criminal militia. After the defeat of the militia, a large quantity of arms and ammunition had been captured by the soldiers of Islam. The militia set fire to crops while they were fleeing.

Bangladesh

Minister Seeks Protection for People of Bosnia

BK2307145195 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 17 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman Sunday [16 July] urged the international community to help protect the people of Bosnia, reports BSS [BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY].

The minister was briefing the envoys of the foreign missions based in Dhaka at the Foreign Office in Dhaka Sunday evening on the latest situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Expressing grave concern over the situation the minister said, "we are alarmed that a great tragedy may be inevitable for the people of Bosnia unless the international community can take some decisive action right now."

The Foreign Minister said the invasion of Srebrenica, the taking of hostage of UN Peace Keepers, the eviction of thousands of refugees from that enclave have demostrated the sinister objective of the Bosnian Serb leadership. He said, we have learnt also that a large number of men, women and children have been held prisoners in Srebrenica by the Bosnian Serbs. They are also reported to have said that Srebrenica will very soon be free of Bosnian Muslims.

He said the Bosnian Serbs have misinterpreted patience of the world community as weakness. He said, "it is not only that the very credibility of UN which is at stake, it is the very survival of an entire nation which is being challenged by the Bosnian Serbs. The international community must take up the challenge and act now."

The minister sought support of all nations particularly the permanent members of the Security Council and member countries of the NATO to protect the lives of innocent people of Bosnia from the barbaric Bosnian Serbs.

Foreign Minister Rahman congratulated France for coming forward to meet the situation in Bosnia. He said, "we call on all other nations to follow this example."

He said Bangladesh is fully prepared together with other willing nations in facing the challenge. He said the challenge of Bosnian Serbs must be met with the force of arms. He said, "we call on all nations to act immediately so that the Security Council can take appropriate steps to save Bosnia."

He said: "the Bosnian Serb invaders in Srebrenica must be pushed out by force of arms. UN Peace-keepers held

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hostage must be released forthwith. All civilians held in detention by Bosnian Serbs must be freed."

He further said that the supply of humanitarian assistance in Bosnia must have free access to all areas of Bosnia including Srebrenica. Expressing the need for expansion of UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] and its reinforcement, he said it should be given the kind of striking capability that is needed. He said there is need for equipping the UNPROFOR with the kind of armament that the situation demands.

French role lauded

Meanwhile, Bangladesh on Sunday praised the determination, courage and commitment of France in dealing with the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and called upon other countries to follow the example, reports BSS.

"It is now quite clear that the Bosnian Serbs understand only the language of force" Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan said at a regular press briefing and congratulated France for taking a policy what is needed to tackle the Bosnian Serb's barbaric postures.

Backs Air Strikes Against Serbs

BK2507043095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh has called for air strikes and other necessary measures to end the Serb aggression against all enclaves under the control of the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR]. The call was made by Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman in separate letters to his U.S., British, and French counterparts yesterday. A Foreign Ministry statement said the letters were handed over to the ambassadors of the respective countries in Dhaka.

In his letter, the foreign minister also expressed Bangladesh's concern about its troops in UNPROFOR. They are based in Bihac. The statement said Bangladesh's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York has been asked to contact the president of the Security Council and the UN secretary general to brief them on Bangladesh's concern about the recent situation in Bihac and urge them to take effective measures to ensure the security of UN safe areas. The statement said that during the last few days, the UN safe area in Bihac, Bosnia has come under attack from the north and northwestern regions of (Serguna) and (Abuskar). It said there have been no casualties among the Bangladesh contingent so far except for one Bangladesh soldier being wounded. The wounded soldier is currently undergoing treatment.

Article Addresses Corruption of National Party

95AS0462B Dhaka JANAKANTHA in Bengali 13 Jun 95 p 5

[Article by Fayez Ahmed: "Politics is Increasingly Immersed in Cruelty"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Political cruelty is more evident in our political parties, which claimed to be worshippers of democracy. After a country wide movement and bloody struggle for nine years against autocratic rule, people thought in that the course for an honest and fair administration and that the basis of democracy would be established. They also thought that the opposition parties after forgetting the shock of their defeat would carry on their parliamentary responsibilities for serving the people. But in the so-called capitalist democratic environment, a person can be traded for money in this country as happened in the medieval period and the people have no influence over their representatives after the election. This is applicable in case of almost 90 percent of the legislators. There is no fixed manual on the duties and responsibilities of the legislators. But there are some traditions regarding this matter and on the basis of which we take the legislators as the servants of the people. On the basis of that tradition, we develop some expectations from the legislators which are never fulfilled. Dhaka is the center of wealth, power, banking and monetary resources. For that reason, legislators' cars are always seen moving in front of the secretariat of Dhaka. But the present situation is little different on the perspective of the coming election. Some are eager to buy and some are eager to be bought. This unhealthy political atmosphere goes against political culture. People's desire for getting democratic rights will never rightly be fulfilled. Ordinary people helplessly see that their representatives, whom they voted for sacrifice the ideology of the party they belong to and change their party loyalty for their personal economic or future political gains. In this regard, people's desire or vote has no value, rather it is completely ignored. Before the present parliament is dissolved on the eve of the new election, many legislators are now busy to find secure positions. [passage omitted]

It is known from a recent report — the report of Justice Ansaruddin Commission which was not made public by the government, that during the rule of President Ershad, five hundred billion taka was looted and there were sufficient documents on the basis of which fifteen hundred law suits could have been filed. It is not understandable why that one thousand page report of the commission appointed by acting president Sahabuddin was not released to the public. After coming to power, the present government published a white paper on the

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rule of president Ershad, but that publication did not reach the people. From their investigation, many known faces surfaced and numerous allegations of corruption and autocracy remained in that white paper in spite of best efforts to avoid them. Although there was opportunity of filing more than hundred law suits, only twenty-five to twenty-six law suits were actually filed. Many big fish who had close relations with Ershad still steadily swim in the tank, and only General Ershad is in prison. The white paper was not made public not only for their political advantage, but there was concern that their own misdeeds might be exposed. Political promises became meaningless. The people whom the present party in power Bangladesh National Party hope to get in their camp for the coming election would be implicated in the white paper. After coming to power prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia according to her promise printed the names of the big bank credit defaulters in the newspaper for two to three days. She was congratulated from many different circles, but due to the pressure of the political cells of her own party, she had to stop printing the names of the big bank credit defaulters for political reasons. She and her party leadership made a political mistake. They thought that with the help of those persons they would increase the power of the government. The question of dependence on some dishonest persons became more important than the right of the people to know the truth. [passage omitted]

Article Says Democracy Dying Slow Death

95AS0462A Dhaka JANAKANTHA in Bengali
15 Jun 95 p 4

[Article by Abir Hasan:"Democracy: The Word May be Spoken With Great Difficulty"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] How is state activity in Bangladesh going? The politics of Bangladesh does not care for this question. The word democracy is barely attached to politics and it might be rejected at any moment. Many days have passed since the mass movement of 1990 and the election of 1991. The democratic movement is only a memory. Our politicians are doing politics as usual, but they have failed to keep the on-going flow of democracy. Parliamentary democracy now has become as dry as the river Padma. At first it appeared that the crisis was not very deep rooted. But a few days ago, one minister of the ruling party expressed concern that the future of the politicians and political workers is getting dark, and in near future, the politicians may not be seen in leadership positions in politics. The process of filling the gap has already begun. Now everybody wants to know how many important non-political personalities are joining in different parties and how many of them are getting ready to be leaders. The political parties are steadily supplying information to satisfy people's curiosity. In this course, sometimes people are also getting some interesting experiences. The recently published book entitled "Democracy and the Challenge of Development: A Study of Politics and Military Intervention in Bangladesh" by Mr. Maodud Ahmed, one of the top leaders of Jatiya Party [JP], is worth mentioning in this respect. This book in English created reaction in the three political parties and in some other circles. Reaction also occured in his own JP. In many cases, the author made some uneasy comments about the chairman of his own party. An apparent impartial viewpoint is noticed. This impartial stance was necessary to shield Mr. Ahmed. Mr. Maodud Ahmed wrote the book about a very sensitive issue and he had also a role in the matter. In his attempt to discuss two previous administrations, Mr. Ahmed not only put the leaders of the other parties into uneasiness, he placed himself in a similar situation. The language and the subject matter of the book are beyond the understanding of common people. They have known about the book through newspapers. It does not seem that their reaction will have any influence either on the politics of JP or it's vote bank. As the election is coming, the existence of the JP has become a matter of disadvantage to many political parties. So, many people are trying to make the party inactive. But there was a time when this party, which was used as shield to autocracy, could have been put to inaction by the will of the people. The protectors of democracy did not do that on time. They thought that the party will gradually be powerless with the passage of time, but that did not happen. Commenting on one military ruler in his book, Mr. Maodud Ahmed said, "He democratized the system, but he ran it in an autocratic manner." It is a strange evaluation. If someone democratized the system, how could he do that in an autocratic manner? In other sense, it can be argued that if someone is autocratic, how can he democratize the system? In fact, to our politicians the word democracy is a very cheap term, so cheap that the autocrats can use it according to their will. In that case, the opposite scenario can also happen . Someone can be an autocrat by using democracy. It is not impossible. It happened in our country and some other countries in the world. Is our present tendency leading that way? As the politicians' concern about the question of future leadership in politics is not baseless, the creation of the degeneration of the sense of values due to their weakness is also not baseless. In his effort to place one ruler in a higher position, Mr. Maodud Ahmed put the other ruler in a lesser position in his book. It does not appear that he did it unwillingly or unconsciously.

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This kind of mistake is not expected from a person of his intellect. It is not a lack of caution, but a kind of political characteristic. This kind of debate, which does not reach to the lower level of voters, creates a different type of impression. Any type of controversial personality can remain in an advantageous position in politics and it is not believable that Maudud Ahmed or any person in politics is not conscious about this fact. It will not be a matter of surprise if the JP's strength increases due to the publication of this book. It should be remembered that the growth of political strength of that party could have been taken place either by this book or by some other means. Apart from the JP, we can not ignore what is going on in other parties. It has become clear now that the different pressure groups in society have become eager to be involved in politics. It should not be considered just as a tendency. The loss of credibility of the politicians, their questionable capability and their corruption are responsible for this. It was previously noticed that the student leaders and other qualified people enjoyed the respect of political leaders. [passage omitted]

The political parties believe that it is not a hard task to get acceptance for a new person as leader. The leader of ruling party has already declared that the selection of candidates in the election will not depend solely on political credentials. There is no reason to believe that the other political parties will remain out of this culture. All of them are now following the same course and election propaganda has also begun. But how will the election occur? Many people are not giving that much importance to the issue which has created a parliamentary crisis and paralyzed democracy. Mainly due to that reason, politics is not running anything in this country excepting election propaganda. The state's activities are running in its own momentum. This is not anything new, but a very old one. The colonialists ran the government in the same manner. We wanted freedom and democracy and allowed the state to run detached from politics. The state is running and the people are suffering.

Pakistan

Article Criticizes U.S. Over Enron Deal

BK2207150795 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 21 Jul 95 p 12

[Article by Arvind Panagariya: "The Enron Deal: the Cost of Mixing Business With Politics"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There are three disturbing aspects of the Enron experience: involvement of and lobbying by the U.S. government on behalf of Enron no open bidding, and possibly terms that were too favourable to Enron. [sentence as published]

There is no doubt that the involvement of the U.S. government in securing the contract and defending Enron subsequently has gone well beyond reasonable limits and must be denounced. In the post-cold-war United States, politics has become the handmaiden of commerce. It is one thing for the commerce secretary, Mr Ron Brown, to take top executives of U.S. multinationals to India, China, and other so-called "emerging-market" countries for "get-acquainted" meetings 'but quite another to use U.S. political clout to influence the terms of commercial deals. [sentence as published] The latter should be a matter of negotiation between the buyer and the seller; being neither, the U.S. administration had no business sending official delegations last year to obtain guarantees on Enron investments.

The United States' heavy-handed approach continued after the newly elected coalition government in Maharashtra decided to review the contract and raised the possibility of cancelling it. On June 4, 1995, the U.S. Depanment of Energy (DOE) issued a statement that the failure to honour the contract would damage India's chances of further investment in the power industry. If this was a prediction, there was no empirical basis for it and the DOE surely has no comparative advantage in forecasting foreign investment. If it was a threat, as is likely it was bad politics. Given India's democratic set up, it not only led to sharp reactions in the Press but also made it more difficult for the government of India to defend the project.

Having said this, we must recognise that there has been a failure in handling the matter on our side as well. In view of the shortage of power — we currently produce roughly one fifth of the required power — it is understandable that the government of India wanted to move quickly. Yet, given continuous suspicion and charges of corruption, abandonment of well-established procedures for competitive bidding of public projects was a mistake. In addition to making the contract an easy target for opposition parties, the abandonment of open bidding made it easier for the United States government to influence the terms of the agreement.

Economically speaking, is cancellation of the Enron contract a good idea? The answer to this question the deal offered Enron was too sweet. Unfortunately, serious economic analysis which could shed light on this issue has simply not been undertaken. Worse still, the information available from different news sources is contradictory. According to one set of figures, Enron will receive Rs. [rupees] 2.40 per kilowatt hour from the state electricity board in 1997 compared with Rs.

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1.74 paid currently to the existing power plants. Even if the latter figure rises 10 per cent each year, the rate paid the existing sources in 1997 cannot exceed Rs. 2.10 per kilowatt hour, making the rate offered Enron quite attractive. Yet, the rate-of-return figures contradict this conclusion. According to these figures, Enron has been guaranteed a minimum return of 16 per cent on investment which can potentially rise to 30 per cent if the plant operates at full capacity. But according to the Indian power ministry which supports the project, the rate of return earned by power companies under private ownership in recent years is 40 per cent. That makes the deal not so sweet after all.

Assuming, however, that the deal offered Enron is too sweet and-even after taking into account the compensation we must pay — too costly for us, can its cancellation be justified at this late stage in the game? The answer is 'yes' There are three reasons for this. First, if the extra cost of carrying out the project relative to the best alternative available is more than the compensation cost, it is in our economic interest to get out of the contract. Second, a clear message needs to be sent that when, through procedure violation and undue political pressures, excessively sweet deals are cut on public projects, there is an oversight by public within a democratic system. In future negotiations, the U.S. and other countries will be more careful in bringing pressure on the government of India. And finally, a cancellation will also send a message to our own public officials that while committing public funds, they must not sacrifice public interest.

A frequent argument against the cancellation of the contract, even if the latter is too costly for India, has been that it will cripple our efforts to attract foreign investments. Such an argument, often made by parties interested directly or indirectly in protecting the interests of Enron or other multinationals, has been seldom backed by evidence. It is true that repeated cancellations will undermine our credibility to make contracts. But it is not immediately obvious that a one-time cancellation of a bad deal — assuming that the deal is bad — concluded without competitive bidding will have such an impact.

It is interesting to recall in this context that last year, Mr Ron Brown and his delegation had tried to pressure India into implementing the Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) Agreement faster than required by our commitments under the Uruguay Round Agreement. Driven by the U.S. pharmaceutical lobbies, they argued that without TRIPs legislation, India will not be able to attract urgently-needed foreign investment. Little did they realise, however, that China, one of the worst offenders of intellectual property rights, has been experiencing massive inflows of direct foreign investments during the last decade.

The problems arising out of the Enron project are not unique to India. Other ambitious infrastructure projects in Asia have had to deal with similar problems. Last year, the Thai government wanted to raise the toll on a motorway in Bangkok constructed with $250 million borrowed from a group of 23 international banks. This met with public resistance forcing the government to settle for a lower toll. The banks, in turn, wrote to the Thai government asking to withdraw from the project. This incident has surely not led to a slow down of foreign investment in Thailand. The truth of the matter is that, due to potential resistance by the public to price hikes, public infrastructure projects are inherently subject to a greater uncertainty than projects in other sectors. But taking risks is what business is all about.

The most Important lesson for the United States from the Enron experience is to resist the temptation to turn commercial interests into politics. This is important in general but particularly so when it comes to democratic countries such as India. The lesson for the government of India is not to bypass procedures which have a well-established history and, more importantly, to streamline procedures for public projects to ensure speedy decisions. Finally, as a nation, we must not let this experience derail our plans to open the economy to foreign investment. One negative Enron experience is matched by numerous positive experiences of multinationals contributing positively to our economy. We need more, not less, foreign investment. In 1994, realised direct foreign investment into India was a modest $2 billion compared with China's $35 billion.

Rao, Election Official Discuss Kashmir Elections

BK2507093995 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 18 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Election Commissioner M S Gill, who is holding temporary charge of the Election Commission (EC), called on Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao on Monday [17 July] to ascertain his and his party's perception of the commission.

During his half-an-hour meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr Gill discussed the changed profile of the EC after the Supreme Court's decision upholding the status of the commission as "multi-member". He also asked the Prime Minister to give his opinion on the functioning of the EC, sources in the commission said.

Mr Gill said he would meet the prominent Opposition leaders soon and would try to get their perception of the EC. The issue of holding Assembly elections in

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Jammu and Kashmir [J and K] also came up during the discussion.

Mr Gill indicated that no major decision would be taken without consulting Chief Election Commissioner T N Seshan, who is currently on leave, and G V G Krishnamurthy, the other Election Commissioner.

"For the past 20 months, no information about the commission's functioning was shared with Mr Gill. Thus, he wants to catch up with all that has happened in the commission and the major issues that the commission has to take up shortly," a senior officer said. Mr Gill also held a meeting with the senlor officials in the commission.

Later in the day, Union Home Secretary P Padmanabhaiah called on Mr Gill and discussed with him the possibility of holding elections to the J and K Assembly.

The sources said that Mr Padmanabhaiah apprised Mr Gill of the situation in Kashmir and assured him that the Government is capable of holding Assembly elections in the State before January 17, when the extended term of the Central rule will expire in the State.

Mr Gill was also given a detailed "status report" of deployment of para-mllitary forces during the elections in the State. The closed door meeting between the Election Commissioner and the Union Home Secretary went on for more than half-an-hour.

It may be recalled here that after the Charar Sharif incident, Mr Seshan had visited Kashmir to make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. He had conveyed to the Government that the situation in the State was not conducive to holding elections.

The Government, which had moved a resolution during the Parliament's budget session to get the President's rule extended in J and K till January 17, is now intending to hold elections there.

Delhi Rejects 'Baseless' Charges by Pakistan

BK2307134495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has categorically refuted Pakistan's charges of New Delhi's involvement in the continuing violence in Karachi. The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, described the allegations leveled by the Pakistan president, Mr. Farooq Leghari, and the prime minister, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, as absolutely baseless. He expressed the hope that Islamabad will be able to manage the situation in the port city.

In an interview to PTI in New Delhi, the external affairs minister asserted that India's policy is not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Responding to a question on prospects of resumption of the Indo-Pak dialogue stalled since January last year, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said India wants the dialogue to be resumed. He regretted that there is no response from Pakistan to the offer for talks. He categorically said the chief of Pakistan's Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, is now in New Delhi on a private visit. On the question of Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT], Mr. Pranab Mukherjee said there is no pressure on India to sign the NPT.

Kidnapped Foreign Tourists Still Being Detained

Kashmir Government Appeals for Release

BK2407124395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government today renewed its appeal for the release of five Western tourists who have been in captivity for the past 21 days. A government spokesman in Srinagar appealed to the abductors to take into consideration the concern expressed by everyone about the safety of the hostages and freedom at once. The spokesman said if any of the abducted tourist is unwell, he should be released forthwith on humanitarian grounds. He said there is absolutely no truth in the reports that any encounter had taken place with the abductors anywhere in the valley.

Delhi Rules Out Exchanging 'Militants'

BK2407151995 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Center today firmly ruled out release of any militants in exchange for the five foreign tourists held hostage by the militants in the Kashmir valley.

Replying to questions from newsmen in New Delhi, the home secretary, Mr. K. Padmanabhaiah, said that efforts were on to get the tourists freed, but there is no question of releasing any militant in exchange, and the government's stand on the issue is very clear. Stating that the government was highly concerned about the well-being of the five tourists, Mr. Padmanabhaiah said there is no policy as such and these matters need to be negotiated. Mr. Padmanabhaiah also denied reports that there was an encounter a few days ago between the security forces and the militants.

The state governor, General Krishna Rao, reviewed the security situation in Jammu today at the high-level meeting. He directed the security forces to see that all efforts across the Line of Control to push militants to

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this side are foiled by them. The governor called for an enhanced vigil along the border.

Search for Tourists Shifts to South

BK2507085295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT 25 Jul 95

[By Surinder Oberoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, July 25 (AFP) — Snow and rain may have forced Muslim rebels holding five Western tourists to abandon the upper reaches of the Himalayas and search operations have begun in southern Kashmir, police said Tuesday [25 July].

A police officer in the mountain resort of [words indistinct], where the two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian were kidnapped this month, told AFP that Indian troops had extended their search to the southern portion of the state.

"A search team came to know from local residents that they (the kidnappers and the five hostages) were spotted a few days ago above the village of Tral, " sub-inspector Bashir Ahmed said.

Tral is some 60 kilometers (37 miles) south of the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar while Pahalgam is situated 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Srinagar in the rugged Kashmir Himalayas.

Sub-inspector Ahmed said the authorities possessed further "clues" about the whereabouts of the kidnappers "but for the sake of our future strategy I cannot share them with you."

"We hope to have positive results in a few days," he said.

Ahmed and other police officers said the kidnappers, members of the Moslem separatist group Al-Faran, may have moved the hostages after fresh snowfall, heavy rain and a steep drop in temperature in the mountains of Pahalgam.

Until now, troops had concentrated their search for the five tourists to the Pahalgam area. A photograph of the captives released by the militants nearly two weeks ago showed the hostages against a backdrop of snow-capped peaks.

Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan and American Donald Hutchings were kidnapped while trekking near Pahalgam on July 4. German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro were abducted in separate incidents four days later.

The Indian Government on Monday ruled out releasing imprisoned Muslim militants to win the freedom of the five tourists.

"There is no question of releasing any militant (in exchange for the abducted tourists)," Home Secretary K. Padmanabhaiah said in the Indian government's first categoric rejection of a militant-for- tourist swap.

Speaking in New Delhi, the home secretary also said a claim by Al-Faran that two hostages had been injured in a gun battle with Indian troops last week was a fabrication.

Al-Faran has alleged that two hostages were injured when troops stormed their hideout on July 20. On Sunday, Al-Faran said one of them was in "critical condition."

But Padmanabhaiah said the Army was avoiding making moves which might endanger the captives an "a military operation was never considered."

He said the government had received a report that one of the hostages may have been injured in a scuffle with his captors while they were being shifted between hideouts.

Iran

Cuban Envoy Comments on Ties With U.S., Tehran

LD2207172695 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 22, IRNA - Cuban ambassador to Tehran, Enrique Trujillo Rapallo criticizing the United States's growing pressures against Havana, said unfortunately American statemen impose economic pressures agianst Cuban people without any reason.

Rapallo who was speaking in a press conference added that despite the pressures, Cuba will be committed to the principles of its revolution and will never turn to capitalism.

At the present Havana has friendly ties with the majority of the world countries and American continent and has embarked on some attempts for attaracting foreign invenstments in the country, Cuban ambassador added.

He underlined that Cuba is after reforming the mistakes which it made during recent years due to complete imitation of a special system .

Regarding to the elections of municipalities in Cuba and their results, Rapallo said that more than 97 percent of those qualified for voting took part in the elections.

Cuban ambassador in respose to IRNA reporter's question that in view of the visit of an official from U.S.

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State Deparment to Havana and U.S. permission to reporters and religious groups to visit Cuba, is there any possibility that Washington-Havana ties improves, said "although nothing in the world lasts long, but I do not think U.S. pressures against Cuba will scale down in the future or two countries ties will improves."

"U.S. considers Cuba's issue as a domestic problem as one of its states and wants to intervene in our country which Havana will never allow it," Rapallo said.

He termed Deputy Secretary of State, Anne Peterson's visit to Cuba in line with two countries' talks on the situation of Cuban immigrants.

Rapallo in answer to the question of one of reporters on Cuba's economic problems said, "in addition to U.S. sanctions, the collapse of former Soviet Union who used to be Cuba's main trade partner is one of the main reasons of economic problems."

Meanwhile he said Russia-Cuba ties due to its 35 years background, is still growing, but unlike the past the political issues will not determine the priorities of Havana-Moscow ties.

On Tehran-Havana ties, Cuban official said that Iran-Cuba ties is very friendly and at a high level and the two countries economic and cultural ties have increased in recent years.

Rapallo considerd U.S. embargo against Iran as illogical and said, "no country followed U.S. for this reason."

Such economic pressures are for achiving political goals and do not follow any international laws, he underscored.

Radio Views U.S., UK 'Pressure' on Sudan

LD2307135395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0952 GMT 23 Jul 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a time when a two-month cease-fire in the internal war in southern Sudan is nearing its end, the country's statesmen are facing new problems which severely threaten Sudan's national security.

The tension in Sudanese-Egyptian relations — which developed after an unsuccessful attempt on the life of Husni Mubarak — has brought a new problem for Khartoum on its northern border. Moreover, according to the Government of Sudan, the country is also faced with opposition elements which infiltrate Sudanese territory from Eritrea.

On the other hand, the Sudanese diplomacy [preceding word in English] should also reply to accusations levelled against it by some Western countries, particularly the U.S. and Britain, and confront their propaganda. The United States and Britain accuse the Government of Sudan of violating human rights and supporting terrorism. They resort to those pretexts in order to interfere in that country's internal affairs.

Ever since the current government came to power in Sudan and the country's leaders decided to implement the Islamic Shariah, Washington and London began to pursue a policy of exerting pressure on the Government of Khartoum. They also began supporting the opposition, particularly the rebels of southern Sudan, in an effort to force Sudanese statesmen to change their policy.

Sudan's important position in North Africa and the Middle East and a fear that developments in that country may affect the entire region have created enough motivation for the United States and Britain to adopt anti-Sudan positions and disseminate anti-Sudan propaganda.

At the same time, the Zionist regime — which has never spared any kind of hostility towards Muslims anywhere and, on top of that, nurtures the dream of dominating the Red Sea and having an influence in North Africa — has also adopted anti-Sudan policies. While actively participating in the propaganda onslaught against that country, it also equips anti-Sudan elements.

According to many informed sources, the gathering of the Sudanese opposition in Eritrea last month was initiated and paid for by the Zionists. Moreover, most North African analysts believe that the Zionist regime also played an effective role in creating tension in Egyptian-Sudanese relations, and, in fact, in the opening of a new diplomatic front against Sudan.

Khartoum hosted a special U.S. government envoy who visited the region last week. It is said that his mission was to endeavor to end the internal war in southern Sudan. His efforts and the efforts of other Western mediators have, however, so far failed, particularly as the majority of such mediations ignore the government of Sudan's territorial integrity and sovereignty and try to gain legitimacy for the rebels.

Despite all these problems it seems that the Sudanese statesmen are determined to solve their problems by relying on extensive popular support while maintaining their principles. Of course the good will and cooperation on the part of Sudan's neighbors will play an effective role in achieving that.

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Details of Oil Agreement With South Africa Viewed

LD2207102595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 22 Jul 95

[Commentary from the "On the Sidelines of the News" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the first important agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa since the restoration of relations between the two countries, the two sides have agreed on Iran's use of South Africa's oil storage facilities.

According to this agreement, in order to facilitate its oil exports to Europe and Latin America, the Islamic Republic of Iran will lease two South African underground tanks located in the western shores of that country. Iran is to store 15 million barrels of oil in the tanks.

The two sides will invest jointly in the venture and will both reap its benefits. According to oil analysts, this deal will help Iran to strengthen its position as one of the most important suppliers of oil to Europe. It will also mean that Iran will have access to the markets of Europe and Latin America irrespective of fluctuations in the price of oil or the demand for oil.

This agreement is also important for different reasons. Following the establishment of the Islamic Republic, trade between our country and South Africa was cut because of Iran's opposition to apartheid. However, with the recent oil agreement, trade relations between the two agreements are once again taking shape and expanding.

This agreement follows two years of negotiations between the two sides, which speeded up last year following the elimination of racial discrimination in South Africa and the restoration of political ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa. The agreement has been reached at a time when the United States has been putting pressure on South African statesmen to prevent them from coming to any agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In any case, it is obvious that such an agreement will pave the way for the expansion of cooperation in other areas.

Rafsanjani Meets With Outgoing Libyan Ambassador

LD2207114795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received Libya's Ambassador Dr. Mahdi Ambirash at the end of his mission in Tehran.

During the meeting the president stressed the necessity for strengthening cooperation and ties between Islamic countries to speed up the solution of problems in the world of Islam. He said: Iran and Libya, as two Muslim countries, have strong and good relations. We welcome the future expansion of cooperation with Libya.

The Libyan ambassador praised the Islamic revolution of Iran and its achievements in the region and the world as a great development in the current era. He said: We belive the Islamic Republic of Iran is the propagator of pure Islam as the only lifegiving ideology for the world. The people and Government of Libya regard with respect the people and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Turkish Press Claims About Kurds Said 'Baseless'

LD2507102795 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — Certain Israeli-backed Turkish news circles have once again renewed baseless fabrications against Iran claiming Tehran supports Kurdish opposition groups.

Such allegations are made contrary to the statements of Turkish officials who have appreciated Iran's sincere cooperation in the fight against anti-government Kurdish guerrillas.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel in an interview with BBC Radio late last week said he believed the Islamic Republic of Iran was sincere in its cooperation with Turkish Government against Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

By signing security accords, both Iran and Turkey have undertaken to prevent presence and activities of the opposition in both the countries.

The Iranian security and law enforcement forces have repeatedly confronted with Turkish opposition guerrillas who intended to penetrate into the Iranian territory, during which a number of Iranian security forces have been martyred and some Turkish guerrillas arrested and handed over to Turkish officials.

Within the framework of bilateral security cooperation, Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati accompanied by Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Ala'ddin Boroujerdi paid a visit to Turkey last month and discussed promotion of bilateral relations.

The Turkish daily SABAH referring to discussions held between the officials of the two countries wrote that joint efforts made by Turkey and Iran would to a great extent prevent penetration of PKK into Turkey.

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Meanwhile, during a trip by Istanbul's mayor to Tehran, Besharati termed Tehran-Ankara bilateral ties as 'very good' and stressed that Iran is Turkey's best neighboring state.

The regional political circles believe that given the friendly relations between the two countries as well as Iran's policy based on non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, the realities governing over Tehran-Ankara relations are contrary to materials printed in Turkish media.

The circles stress that there are enough evidence proving *that the Turkish mass media have undeniable relations* with Zionist bodies.

According to informed sources in Turkey, the independent press in that country have opposed to continuation of the trend followed by pro-Zionists press, believing that printing such materials is contrary to the Turkish national interests.

The sources disclosed that since the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf and presence of multinational forces led by the U.S. in Turkey under the pretext of supporting Iraqi Kurds, the hostile stand taken by some Turkish press against Iran has been increased.

The Turkish Parliament last month extended the presence of multinational forces called 'poised hammer' in its territory for another six months.

A number of Turkish political parties, retired generals, different organizations as well as national and Islamic circles have objected to continuation of presence of the said forces and announced that presence of multinational forces in their country has resulted in strengthening of the PKK in northern Iraq.

Radio Urges UN To Punish Regimes, Not Peoples

NC2407055895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 24 Jul 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has started fresh diplomatic efforts to lift the economic sanctions on it. Within this context Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf recently arrived in the Maghreb as part of a tour of Arab countries. The Iraqi foreign minister previously visited Egypt, Yemen, and Qatar and handed over messages from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the heads of these countries, calling on them to support the lifting of the international sanctions on Iraq. Iraq has also set a deadline for the UN special committee in charge of destroying Iraq's weapons of mass destruction to speed up its mission so that the Security Council will have no excuse to renew the economic sanctions on Iraq. These sanctions were imposed five years ago when Iraq occupied Kuwait. They continue today.

As part of this new policy, Baghdad has stated that it is no longer willing to play a unilateral game with the Security Council and that it cannot cooperate with the United Nations without receiving anything in exchange. Latest reports by international organizations state that the economic sanctions on Iraq have afflicted the Iraqi people with poverty, malnutrition, and various diseases and are seriously threatening life in the country.

Political analysts believe the economic sanctions on Iraq and their destructive repercussions for the Iraqi people have revealed that the United Nations has punished the Iraqi people more than punishing the aggressive Baghdad regime. This situation thus dictates that the international organization find new and effective mechanisms in which aggressive regimes are punished without threatening the lives of the oppressed nations concerned.

Reaction to Recent Efforts on Conflict in Bosnia

Bosnian Envoy: No Satisfactory Result

LD2407211495 Tehran IRNA in English 2059 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Bosnian ambassador to Tehran Omar Bahman said that the recent London conference on Bosnia had no satisfactory result, adding that the Serbs still continue their aggression with the help of Britain, France and Russia.

In an interview with the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES, printed Monday [24 July], he recalled a similar conference held in London in 1992 in which it was delineated that any land conquered by an aggressor would not be recognized by any country and the Serbs have no right to ethnic cleansing. But, he stressed, there was no action following the resolution.

Asked to explain the root of the problem, the Bosnian envoy said,"there is an ideology which has existed for 150 years. According to this ideology, the Serbs must all live in one country and in this country there is no room for any other religion, especially Muslims." He said that "such a philosophy exists on paper and its documents lie in the Serb academy. At present [Serbian President] Milosevic has shouldered the implementation of this ideology."

He maintained that the Europeans do not have positive feelings toward Muslims and their inaction and tacit help to the Serbs has added to the problem.

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In reply to a question about the reason behind the arms embargo on Bosnia, the ambassador commented that the measure was also imposed on Yugoslavia, but in reality, only Bosnians are under pressure. The Serbs are in control of 90 percent of the weapons of the army of the former Yugoslavia and besides they receive Russian weapons through Romania. The Croats also receive weapons. Only the Bosnians have difficulty.

In this interview Bahman pointed out that the only thing which can save the Bosnians is the lifting of the arms embargo. But noted that at the United Nations there are member countries who have the right of veto the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China which will not allow the lifting of the arms sanctions. [sentence as received]

He added that Bosnia is under the complete control of the West and Muslim countries must act courageously to counter their actions.

Daily Views OIC Decisions

LD2407110195 Tehran IRNA in English
1033 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA — Bosnian Muslims should be well aware of the fact that all hardships and sufferings will sooner or later result in the victory of good over evil, said the morning daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' Monday [24 July].

Referring to the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the English-language daily said that the Bosnian nation should depend on Allah and Islam first and on Islamic countries and itself second, striving to retrieve its glory and dignity.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group in a recent meeting in Geneva decided not to abide by the arms sanctions on Bosnia any more.

The paper said according to the remarks of Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati after his return from Geneva, the defense ministers and the chiefs of the general staff of the members of the OIC Contact Group should soon explore avenue of aiding Bosnia. Moreover, added the paper, other Islamic countries have undertaken to provide the Bosnian Muslims with vital means of self-defense.

The editorial noted that a high-level Bosnian diplomatic military delegation was currently in Split, Croatia to conclude pacts on a joint defense.

"Though broad-minded people and world Muslims in particular, have always voiced support for Bosnian Muslims, unfortunately, due to the collusion and underhanded deals among world powers, and due to the Bosnian Muslims' reliance on international fora, the circumstances of Muslims in Bosnia have steadily aggravated," regretted the paper.

It hoped in conclusion that the the Bosnian Muslim Government, disillusioned by what has happened so far, will make the most of the present opportunities.

IRNA Reports on 'Firm' OIC Stand

LD2507105095 Tehran IRNA in English
1022 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 25, IRNA — The 52 Muslim states under the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] auspices, can move a step further and register their protests against the U.N. failures by threatening to withdraw their membership from the world body, an English-language daily wrote Tuesday [25 July].

For the first time, the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) took a positive step by issuing a communique at its recent Contact Group meeting, declaring illegal the United Nations arms embargo on Bosnia, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL added.

"For the first time, its stance was decisive and firm, as so far it has done little except issue statements condemning the aggression and calling for greater action by Western nations," it said.

Now that the OIC has decided to go ahead unilaterally under its own banner, it should immediately put into action its declarations, to prove its seriousness in ending the Bosnian conflict, the article suggested.

The OIC declaration has expressed the will of over one billion Muslims of the world, it said adding, "The Islamic countries have a good chance now to show the international community that their power and strength cannot that be underestimated and that in the event of a crisis concerning their own brethren, they can rise to the challenges."

"There is no reason anymore, for the Muslims to rely on the world body, the United Nations or other Western alliances, to resolve their problems," it underlined.

The U.N. has become powerless in the face of veto power rivalries, it said adding, thus it is pointless to work under the framework of the U.N. decisions as they are more often biased. Referring to suggestions made by different Islamic countries to dispatch troops to defend Muslim Bosnian nation, the paper wrote that bold statements have come from some Muslim leaders regarding the Bosnians plight.

"The 52-member OIC has the wherewithal to take firm action as together they form a very wealthy bloc," it

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stressed adding, the time has come for the OIC to stand up as an effective, viable alternative and work under its own vision of thinking.

Perhaps the time has also come to dismantle the U.N. Several nations have expressed disillusionment with the world body's functioning in a crisis, it stated. The paper concluded by saying, "Its peacekeeping operations without firepower can't bring reprieve to the new mind-boggling situations arising everyday in areas of conflict."

Editorial Urges 'Serious Initiative' in Bosnia

NC2407102495 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Jul 95 pp 1-2

[Editorial: "Two Proposals to the Foreign Ministry on Confronting the Bosnian Tragedy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The most horrendous crime of the century is being perpetrated in Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Europeans, who claim to be civilized, with the all-out support of the false advocates of human rights. After the so-called "safe" havens were disarmed on the pretext of human rights, and the women, children, and elderly sought refuge in them, they were shelled by the criminal Serbs and are now falling one by one. Women, children, and the elderly are being massacred or sent to camps to slowly die. And all these crimes are being perpetrated with the collusion of the United Nations so that the plan to create a greater Serbia will be fulfilled and Europe will not witness the creation of an Islamic country in the Balkans. The European governments and the United States are accomplices in this great crime of the century. The blame shared by the United Nations for colluding with these governments and for not acting according to its commitments is clear: The United Nations is directly responsible for this great crime.

The time has come for us—as an Islamic government that should naturally act on the basis of norms—to adopt a decision on world policies and to carry out our duties. On this basis, our Foreign Ministry should take the appropriate steps and—by using its legal and canonical right—move in at least two directions.

The first is that since the United Nations has not acted according to its commitments toward the problem in Bosnia- Herzegovina and is blatantly refraining from carrying out the duties assigned to it by the UN Charter, the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry can—while coordinating with the Islamic countries—prepare the grounds for a statement saying that since the United Nations has not acted according to its commitments on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Islamic countries too do not consider it necessary to move within the framework of the UN resolutions on Bosnia and will thus, themselves, undertake to extend military support to the Bosnian Muslims. This statement, which fully conforms with the legal and canonical rights of the Islamic countries, can be a prologue to more practical steps by the Islamic countries for supporting the Bosnian Muslims and for seriously confronting the Serbs' crimes there.

The other step the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry can take goes beyond the first in that the Foreign Ministry can—by referring to UN violations of its commitments on Bosnia-Herzegovina—prepare a petition against this organization on a global level and distribute it through the Islamic Republic's diplomatic missions in a bid to encourage governments to officially react against the United Nations. These governments can protest to the United Nations or ask why it is spending its budget, which is furnished by money paid by the member countries in membership fees, on steps that create the grounds for fulfilling the Western powers' expansionist objectives. This protest too has a legal basis and is based on international norms.

With these two and other similar steps, our Foreign Ministry can encourage the Islamic countries to make use of their rights and also achieve coordination among the other countries to inflict pressure on the United Nations to end the expansionist powers' domination of this world forum. Such steps will yield useful results, not only in ending the Bosnian tragedy, but also in harnessing the expansionist objectives of the hegemonist powers. Our Foreign Ministry should display serious initiative.

Daily on Need To Send Arms, Forces to Bosnia

NC2407121095 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Jul 95 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Delivering Arms to Bosnia Is Genuine Necessity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fall of Srebrenica, its impact, and repercussions have enticed the savage Serbs to extend their crimes; they are now intoxicated and preparing for assaults on Zepa and Gorazde.

But instead of solving problems under such conditions, the UN officials are trying to make up for their defeat and failure as best they can. By constantly stressing their inability to defend the other safehavens in Bosnia, they are actually giving the green light to the Serbs to go ahead and occupy these areas too.

The Muslims and the defenders in Zepa and Gorazde, who have given up on hope coming from everywhere, have made their decision and have entered the scene to prevent the Serbs' savage assaults; by disarming the UN

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forces they have acquired a limited quantity of arms to defend their reputation and honor and the lives of the people. But let us not forget that these arms are almost nothing compared with the arms the United Nations forces took when they disarmed the defenders of these cities.

But the attempt by the Bosnian defenders is understandable and should be endorsed. And we should not forget that this news too may have been intentionally magnified by the Western mass media in a bid to hide the overt crimes being perpetrated by the West, the United Nations, and the Security Council against the Bosnian Muslims and to pretend that the defenders of Zepa and Gorazde now have the arms they need to defend their cities.

This is a misgiving we should not accept. The United Nations and the Security Council have shown that in the Bosnian tragedy they have blatantly supported the savage Serbs and are accomplices in their war crimes. They have shown that they have not fulfilled any of their commitments and responsibilities. Under such conditions, Islam should not sit and wait for a decision or a gesture by anyone, but should go ahead and move in two directions to save the Bosnian Muslims, despite all the problems that lie ahead.

The first is to break the arms embargo on the oppressed Bosnian nation and to deliver arms to the defenders to defend the honor and lives of their nation. Today, delivering arms to Bosnia is a genuine necessity, and Islam should take any steps it can to powerfully enter the scene to break this antihuman siege.

The second is to send forces defending Islam to Bosnia. Today millions of people throughout Islam are ready to defend the honor of the Bosnian Muslims and to prove with all their might that Islam is not helpless and can send volunteer forces to defend the oppressed people in Bosnia.

Feelings of doubt and timewasting will harm the Bosnian Muslims and benefit the war criminals. This is why not even one moment of negligence is permitted.

Khamene'i Stresses Islamic System to Diplomats

LD2407165095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, today in a gathering of Foreign Ministry officials and Iranian diplomats in other countries, said the reliance of Iranian ambassadors to steadfastness and the fundamental stances of the Islamic system was a prerequisite to victory in the diplomatic war.

He said the performance of the country's diplomatic machinery is improving. Referring to the goals that the Islamic system pursues in the world, he said: Today the Islamic system has questioned the identity, goal, and strength of the Western system.

Stressing the necessity for expressing Islamic thoughts throughout the world and negating Western-style human rights, he said: We regard human rights more comprehensively, logically, and correctly than what is imagined in the Western world. Our diplomats in their diplomatic activities should clearly object to Western- style human rights and, by using as evidence facts such as the events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, should point out the false claims of the West in supporting human rights.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said two-way ties with the outside world is a necessity. He said: Political wisdom should always prevail in diplomatic activities. Our ambassadors should be able to attain the fundamental aims and struggles by relying on diplomatic finesse.

He said victory in the foreign diplomatic arena is the fruit of perseverance in fundamental stances. He added: In the diplomatic arena Iran's diplomats should stress their steadfastness and perseverance in their goals and praise the progressive Islamic system.

He referred to the efforts of the enemies of Islam to create doubt about cooperation, understanding, and solidarity between the country's officials. He added: I am at the heart of the country's information and news. As the most informed person throughout the system I have no doubt that the concord, understanding, affection, solidarity, and desire to cooperate in upper echelons of the Islamic system is unprecedented in the world.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said the country's management was efficient, able, resolute, reliant on God, pious, and a believer in its own capabilities. He said the clear, strong, and unbiased approach of the judiciary to the attainment of justice was one of the achievements of the Islamic system. He added: We endorse and support the carrying out of justice and bringing criminals to their knees. But, at the same time, the system of justice should not be subjected to the intrigues of irresponsible individuals or the enemy.

Recounting the duties of Iran's diplomats abroad, the esteemed leader stressed the importance of hard work.

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Velayati Outlines Foreign Policy Priorities

LD2507111195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The annual seminar of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign envoys convened with a speech by Judiciary Chief Mohammad Yazdi in Tehran this morning.

In the seminar, which was also attended by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his deputies, Mr. Yazdi referred to the formation of the Islamic Human Rights Commission and its role in the implementation of Islamic edicts and in fulfilling the rights of the world's Muslims. He said: The higher policy-making council of the commission has started its work and has certain programs on its agenda.

He added: Some fundamental changes have taken place in the country's judicial system in recent years and now over 90 percent of the country's judicial laws are fully compatible with Islamic judicial principles.

Foreign Minister Velayati also addressed the seminar. He said that among the foreign policy priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran are defending the rights of Iranians abroad, following up regional and international issues, and expanding relations and cooperation with neighboring and Islamic countries and regional organizations. He added: The role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic representatives abroad is crucial. They should know that the more our foreign policy becomes active in regional and international arenas, the more our enemies will create problems and difficulties for us. We should, however, seriously confront these difficulties and pursue our policies.

Pakistan

Editorial Chides Larry Pressler Over Arms Curbs

BK2207093795 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 22 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "At it again"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to a news report Senator Larry Pressler has taken yet another initiative aimed at obstructing the delivery by the US government to Pakistan of military equipment, including three P3C anti-submarine Orion aircraft as well as missiles and F-16 spares, that the latter has already paid for and which continues to be held up as a result of the amendment that bears the senator's name. In a letter circulated to his colleagues in the Senate he has sought their support in the enterprise by positing it as a major security issue in the context of the US policy of nuclear non-proliferation. Earlier, the senator had maintained that F-16 aircraft contracted by Pakistan could be retrofitted to carry nuclear bombs and had argued strongly against their delivery on the grounds that it would constitute a violation of the US nuclear non-proliferation laws. Reluctantly, Pakistan agreed to the US proposal that the aircraft could be sold to a third country and Pakistan compensated with the sale proceeds. Now the senator has attempted to argue against the delivery of the rest of the military equipment through reasoning that borders on the absurd. Apart from contending that the Clinton administration's efforts to modify the Pressler Amendment in order to deliver the military equipment to Pakistan undermine the goals of US policy with regard to nuclear non-proliferation and the maintenance of regional stability in South Asia, the senator has come up with the curious thesis that transferring the equipment would serve Iran's military interests. Naval exercises carried out by Iran and Pakistan have been cited as critical evidence for the implicit contention that the naval planes delivered to Pakistan would somehow be made use of by Iran in its 'quest to extend the reach of its naval power as far as the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.' Clearly, this is nothing more than a bald attempt at exploiting the touch of hysteria that has attended US policy towards Iran in the recent years. Regarding the issue of stability in South Asia the senator has made much of what he calls Pakistan's attempts to develop its long-range ballistic missile programme (and that, too, with Chinese assistance) and the possibility of the Clinton package precipitating a new arms race between India and Pakistan. But there is not even a mention of India's elaborate and ambitious missile development programme or its widely acknowledged nuclear arsenal and capability. Had the senator been truly concerned about the situation in the region he would have at least taken note of India's rapid militarisation and its policies in Kashmir instead of coming up with far-fetched scenarios and assumptions that have little to do with reality.

Meanwhile, a report submitted to the US Congress by the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) has warned about the risk of a fourth Indo-Pakistan war that could include the use of nuclear weapons. While recognising that the two countries have taken a number of steps to reduce the level of tension such as the prior notification of military exercises, it contends that the two sides have not fully implemented the bilateral agreements and as such the ACDA seeks a role for itself to 'assist' effective verification of Pakistan-India regional agreements and treaties. While such a US role may not be acceptable to both sides there can be no denying the need for the two countries themselves to take the necessary steps for avoiding a war that neither

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side can afford. To that end the US and others can help by pressing India to respond to the many proposals that Pakistan has no the table for averting a nuclear as well as a conventional arms race in South Asia. Senator Larry Pressler please take note!

'Sources' Detail Plan To Purchase French Mirages

BK2407092895 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jul 95 pp 1, 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad July 23 — As F-16 phase out of sight once for all Pakistan has finally decided to acquire the Dessault Mirage 2000-5 as PAF's [Pakistan Air Force] main strike fighter bomber. [sentence as published] An official announcement of the deal is expected from Islamabad and Paris shortly.

The decision to finally go for the French fighter was taken after a series of high-level meetings between Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak and senior airforce officials. It was transpired during the briefings that Moscow has informally conveyed to Pakistan its inability to supply SU-27 fighters due to political impediments. Similarly Sweden could not furnish sovereign guarantees that US will not put restriction on the delivery of Gripen fighter since it is equipped with US supplied GE F404 engines. Left with Hobson's choice the Air Board finally gave its verdict in favour of Mirage 2000-5.

Though no official word is available so far about the details of the deal, well informed defence sources say that Pakistan will acquire about 80 aircraft at the price tag of around 84.5 million US dollars per copy. The price includes support and maintenance package. It is reported that the government has already allocated 3 billion US dollars for PAF in order to meet the rapidly increasing threat perception from across the border.

The IAF's [Indian Air Force] latest induction of Russian fighters into service and other military build ups together with veiled threats of war by Indian authorities have compelled Islamabad to conclude the multi-billion US dollar deal. Reports of PAF's making the final choice were pouring in for last four weeks. It was said the government had instructed the Force to conclude its discussions with various western and eastern sources for the procurement of a viable front line fighter without wasting time.

Pakistan has been negotiating with France for the procurement of Mirage 2000 and Mirage 2000-5 for about last five years. Several teams visited France to carry out technical evaluations of the two versions of the aircraft. Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif signed a deal for 40 Mirage 2000s during his visit to Paris. The deal was subsequently dropped due to the unacceptability of the aircraft by PAF experts.

The multi-role version of the French fighter will represent a significant boost to PAF, which has been striving hard for a front line war plane for quite some time. The Mirage 2000-5 provides a true BVR (Beyond Visual Range) and multiple-target engagement potential with the MICA air-to-air missile, while also offering satisfactory performance as a strike aircraft. These performances are not confined to conventional weaponry given the good selection of guided air-to-surface weapons on offer by French industries.

Although initially designed as an interceptor and air defence fighter, the Mirage 2000-5 has evolved into a combat aircraft capable of covering nearly all conceivable operational roles within a medium, and high rank level airforces. "The very good payload/range for both strike missions and air combat, topped by excellent manoeuvrability and maximum speed performance, should make Mirage 2000-5 a viable choice for PAF that requires a flexible weapon system, with the added advantage of a reduced risk of political interference from the supplier country", said a senior official while defending the expensive deal at a time when the country is facing serious resource constraints.

While the PAF experts argue that Mirage 2000-5 is a viable aircraft which will remain operational in France as well as Taiwan for the next 6 to 7 years our sources strictly maintain the Mirage 2000-5 is not only a very expensive bird but is gradually phasing out. They said Mirage 2000-5 offered to Pakistan were primarily interceptors and did not have multidimensional role to support the land forces. Besides the craft has deficiency of carrying NATO munitions. They said its avionics could either be optimised for air-to-air role or for the air-to-ground role but not both at the same time. They said that individual Mirage components such as the RDI radar, the Magic/MICA/R530 missiles, the air-to-ground precision guided munitions all have very admirable features. But when synergised into a comprehensive weapons system embedded into the Mirage 2000-5 much is left to be desired. "The Mirage is a beautiful aircraft to fly but its grace undermines its total capacity to give the best bang-for-the-buck", sources said.

Official Urges Islamic Countries To Arm Bosnia

BK2507024295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Maulana Fazlur Rahman, chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, has said the Islamic countries should immediately supply arms to the Bosnian Muslims to

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enable them to defend their independence and territorial integrity. Talking to PPI in Islamabad yesterday, he said it is the responsibility of the Islamic community to make joint efforts to end the Serb aggression against Bosnian Muslims.

Peace Talks Continue Between Government, MQM

MQM Proposes Release of Leaders

BK2107055695 Islamabad THE NATION in English 21 Jul 95 pp 1, 15

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] team has put forward a proposal to the government that its public representatives and other key leaders currently under arrest on various charges must be released so that they can go to Karachi and help restore peace.

"If the entire leadership of the party is missing from the actual scene, how can they prevail upon the public to remain calm and peaceful? If we are allowed political freedom, the scenario in the city can change in a matter of days," Ajmal Dehalvi said on Thursday [20 July] afternoon. He was talking to The Nation after his arrival in the federal capital.

But an official source said the release of MQM leaders was not a simple matter as it was up to the courts to decide.

Later, the first phase of the fourth round of government-MQM talks concluded in the evening with the latter putting forward four proposals for restoration of peace.

The second phase would now be held in Karachi on Monday at 2:00 pm. The venue has again been shifted to the provincial capital because of the death of the mother of Law Minister ND Khan. She had been in coma for the last three weeks.

There was nothing mentionable in the joint statement that was issued after the four-hour long talks except that the two committees had offered fateha [memorial service] for ND Khan's mother.

Prior to the meeting, when asked, Dehlvi conceded that the situation was fast getting out of even the MQM's hands. "Altaf Hussain has said this on a number of occasions that so far the people of Karachi are listening to him. But the way things are going, it might not be long before even he would not be able to control the anti-government sentiments of the public and the small criminal gangs."

Dehlvi had another theory to offer about the present wave of killings. "The current violence is not the act of terrorism. This is a public reaction against state atrocities. There are small groups of people who are disappointed at the government's hardline attitude and desperation is overtaking them.

"Then there are the drug and land mafias which are capitalising on the government-MQM differences. The government must realise this and stop pushing the people of Karachi to the wall."

When asked, he said actually there was no party which was against the idea of a new province. "The demand for the fifth province is not unconstitutional. If new divisions and districts could be created with the increase in population, why not new provinces?"

Another proposal of the MQM is the stoppage of the so-called operation. But government sources say that if by operation, the MQM means Rangers' patrolling and presence of 23,000 police personnel, they cannot be removed from the city.

Dehlvi said he was going to convey it to the government that if the current operation in Karachi did not stop, then there was no use holding the dialogue.

He said there was a contradiction as ND claimed there was no such thing as operation but Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar said the operation would continue.

According to Ajmal Dehlvi, if the government halted the operation and an understanding was reached with the MQM, it would automatically eliminate the small criminal groups operating in Karachi.

He again accused the official agencies of killing people. "When bodies are found tortured and packed in sacks, this cannot be the work of anybody but government agencies." He said these kind of things were usually enough to drive the general public crazy.

He said the Amnesty International, human rights organisations and the foreign media were collecting evidence about state terrorism. He said the fact that business was being badly affected by the situation was also sending wrong signals.

About the idea of MQM going to the United Nations and OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference], he said if the talks failed then "we would have to look for options at the international level."

Following the government-MQM talks, Ajmal Dehlvi talking to newsmen said that if the government decided to act upon the MQM's four proposals, there could be a lot of improvement and peace could be restored in a short time.

He said that some serious discussion had taken place and they were hopeful of a positive response from the

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government. He said in the light of directions given by Altaf Hussain, the MQM was hopeful and did not want to think in terms of the talks' failure at this stage.

Not commenting on the nature of proposals, he said his team would make them public if the government did not agree to them in Monday's session.

Dehlvi again reiterated that the responsibility for violence lay with the government because it had the state power. It was the government's primary duty and not MQM's to ensure law and order. He said if restoration of peace, according to the government's estimates, was likely to take three to four months, then there was no use holding negotiations.

To a question, he said his party did not possess any legal or illegal arms. But at the same time, he demanded that entire Sindh should be declared weapon-free and all arms should be collected within a specific date.

About Nasirullah Babar's statement regarding Altaf's return through Interpol, he said the Interior Minister had no knowledge about international laws.

He said Interpol acted only if the accused was in hiding. "Altaf is living there openly and Interpol can't do anything in his case. Even the British government says he is involved in nothing but democratic activities."

Dehlvi had met Nasirullah Babar at the airport. Babar was leaving for Karachi. The MQM chief negotiator said he had invited the Interior Minister to sit in the government's committee as it was small in size as compared to their team.

MQM Said Ordered To Take 'Tough Line'

BK2407041195 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 23 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, July 22 — The five-member MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] negotiation team headed by Ajmal Dehlvi has reportedly received fresh directions from Altaf Hussain from London and the directions are apparently to take a tough line in the ongoing peace parleys with the government to restore peace in Karachi, said a high government official here on Saturday [22 July].

Top government sources who are monitoring the current MQM- Government peace parleys confided to the The Muslim that in Thursday's fourth round of talks, the MQM peace negotiators, who earlier took a comparatively soft line, this time took a hardened stand and held the government responsible for Wednesday's high number of killings.

Sources said in the first three rounds of talks most of the conversation took place between the head of the government team, Federal Minister for Justice, Law and Parliamentary Affairs ND Khan and head of MQM team Ajmal Dehlvi. However, in the Thursday's fourth round of talks all members of the MQM team came out with their views. The government side attributed this change in MQM's attitude to Altaf Hussain's meeting with Nawaz Sharif in London.

The government sources said that Nawaz Sharif led opposition, which earlier claimed that it would not use the Karachi card to score political points, looked like acting no differently.

Ajmal Dehlvi, leader of the MQM team, while talking to journalists on Saturday said if the government was unable to protect the life and property of the people of Karachi, it must resign. It was a visible shift in MQM's policy. Earlier Altaf Hussain had demanded withdrawal of cases registered against MQM leaders and urged the government to include the MQM in the mainstream. Now they have started demanding the resignation of Benazir Bhutto's led federal government a line apparently taken after Altaf Hussain's meeting with PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz] and ANP [Awami National Party] leaders in London.

The government circles maintain that Mian Nawaz Sharif who earlier faced embarrassment when his efforts to isolate the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] on the Karachi situation went to the drain as Altaf Hussain without taking him in confidence entered into dialogue with the government. Nawaz Sharif has now reportedly asked Altaf Hussain to demand the resignation of Benazir Bhutto government in return for PML-N/ANP support to MQM in Parliament and other forums.

Sources said the ANP leader Ajmal Khattak, who left Islamabad for London on Saturday, was asked by Mian Nawaz Sharif to come there and use his influence with Altaf Hussain to break the dialogue with the government, maintaining that the government was not sincere in talks and it was impossible to find a solution to the Karachi puzzle as long as Benazir Bhutto was the Prime Minister.

A number of PML-N leaders when contacted reject this saying that Mian Nawaz Sharif was in London to attended the graduation ceremony of his son. They said his meeting with MQM leader Altaf Hussain was a routine matter and the government circles were trying to put the blame of the expected failure of talks on the shoulders of PML-N and MQM leadership. They maintained it was the PPP which did not want a settlement with the MQM. PML-N Secretary for Information Mushahid Hussain despite repeated efforts was not available for comments.

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Political circles in the federal capital are also giving importance to the assembling of PPP leaders, mostly from Sindh, in London. Prominent PPP leaders Syed Khurshid Shah, Nawab Yousaf Talpur and Makhdoom Amin Faheem are all in London. These circles claim that these leaders through Wajid Shamsul Hassan, Pakistan High Commissioner in UK, are in contact with Altaf Hussain.

PPI Adds: Altaf Hussain, chief of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), has said that the Rangers, police and other law enforcement forces deployed in Karachi, should flex their muscles to conquer occupied Kashmir and help its people who are victims of the Indian aggression.

In a statement issued Altaf whose political asylum has been confirmed by Britain, said the Pakistan Government which raises 'hue and cries' in support of the Kashmiri freedoms fighters "should divert their energies and resources to liberate the Indian occupied parts of the Kashmir, instead of taking pride and credit over conquering people of its own territory and treating the Muhajirs as a slaved nation".

He said Nazimabad and Gulbahar areas of Karachi had been under siege for the last three days. The forces had forcibly occupied the houses and let loose a reign of terror with indiscriminate firing on the residents of the area. As a result two of the MQM workers Salman Shahzad and Navidur Rahman were shot dead.

Altaf Hussain said "the assassinations and large-scale arrests are part of the government's genocide plan of the Muhajirs, under a pre-determined scheme."

The MQM Chief said the law enforcement forces "demonstrate their powers and courage only when they raid Muhajir colonies but they lose all courage and strength to raid those areas where sophisticated weapons are dumped and within the control of the Haqiqi terrorists".

Altaf called upon all the national and international human rights organisations to send their representatives to the affected colonies in Karachi, Hyderabad and other urban areas of Sindh to make on the spot study of "gross violation of (rights)".

He also asked his partymen to face "the new situation with courage and determination and the tyrants will have to pay in the same coin".

Meanwhile, a member of the government negotiating team Zuhair Akram Nadeem, MNA [member of National Assembly] will announce his seven point formula for restoration of peace and tranquillity in the troubled city of Karachi, here tomorrow.

He will announce these seven points at a press conference here at a local hotel at 4 pm on Sunday.

Mr Nadeem has prepared the seven points to ensure peace in the strife torn city without loss of further time.

'Very Crucial' Session Resumes

BK2407151795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The second session of the fourth round of talks between the government and the Altaf Group began in Karachi this afternoon with clear indications from the team leaders that they want to see the talks move ahead.

The leader of the government team, Mr. N.D. Khan, termed today's session very crucial, but added that the restoration of peace through peaceful means is not possible in a short time. Mr. N.D. Khan, however, said he sees no possibility of the failure of the talks. In the quest for peace, which remained the first and foremost concern of both the government and the Altaf Group, there would be some difficulties which would be sorted out amicably, said Mr. N.D. Khan.

The leader of the Altaf Group, Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, said his team would try to evolve a peace formula in the light of the suggestions made earlier. He said the thread will be taken up from where both the teams had left it in Islamabad on Thursday [27 July] when the talks had to be adjourned due to the death of Prof. N.D. Khan's mother.

Both Sides Review 24 Jul Talks

BK2407163495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The second session of the fourth round of talks between the government and Altaf Group was held in Karachi this afternoon. The law minister, Professor N.D. Khan, led the government side while Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi headed Altaf Group. The next round of talks between the two sides will be held in Islamabad on Monday [31 July] next.

Later, talking to newsmen, Prof. N.D. Khan said in today's talks the government side presented a comprehensive paper to the Altaf Group team, which was based on six papers which he had delivered in phases in earlier round of talks. In this paper, certain clarifications have been sought from the Altaf Group team. These include that they provide clarification about Mr. Altaf Hussain's interview with INDIA TODAY on the 15th of this month, wherein he made the two-nation theory the butt of jokes and supported a South Asian federation in the subcontinent; that Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi categorically

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stated that all terrorism would be condemned, but Mr. Altaf Hussain on 15th of July in a press statement owned five terrorists. Clarification of Altaf Hussain's interview with the BBC on the 17th of this month, wherein he had stated that people have consensus that solution of their problems lies in a separate province, whereas Mr. Dehlvi has stated that they do not believe in the division of the province of Sindh. Clarification of the statement of Mr. Dehlvi, wherein he stated to the daily NATION on the 17th of this month that if the doors of negotiations are closed, then the situation would breed violence. Mr. N.D. Khan said violence is against the Constitution and against international law.

Expressing his point of view about today's talks, Mr. Dehlvi said there were some difficulties and their removal is essential before the next round of talks.

MQM Said Backed by India, Engaged in 'Terrorism'

95AS0460D Lahore MUSAWAT in Urdu 4 Jun p 3

[Editorial: "Terrorists Reveal Altaf Hussain's Relations With India"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The people of Pakistan are aware of the fact that the MQM [Muhajir Quami Movement] leader is not only an Indian agent but is also working for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which is the greatest enemy of Muslims. This was revealed by the terrorists arrested in Karachi. They told of dozens of incidents and said that they received instructions from India's capital, New Delhi. These instructions were relayed to them through the former mayor of Karachi. The sensational facts they have revealed include information about a conspiracy to assassinate a Sindh cabinet member who had quit the MQM and joined the government. They also told about the murder of seven other persons. They revealed their connections with the [now closed] Indian consulate and said that they used to go to the India consulate to receive financial aid by using the former mayor's visiting card. The terrorists revealed that a torture cell of Altaf Hussain was still active in Karachi. The opponents of the MQM are brought here and subjected to shameful torture. While referring to weapons, they said that weapons are brought from a neighboring nation of Pakistan and is given to those in charge of various sectors in Karachi. They said that more than a dozen of Altaf Hussain's associates are still in India and they keep close contact with the terrorists in Karachi. While discussing financial sources, they said that the skins they collect on Id and those they loot from others are sold and the money is deposited in Altaf Hussain's Swiss account.

After these sensational disclosures and other information given by these criminals, it is clear that the MQM leadership is involved in terrorism in Karachi and is working for India's interests. If we closely review MQM's character and these incidents and keep these disclosures in mind, it is clear that Altaf Hussain had contacts with India from day one. He was working for India's interests in Karachi. How can the nation forget the fact that whenever Pakistan tried to raise the Kashmir issue at any international forum, Altaf Hussain had opposed it. The MQM has not condemned Indian [actions in] Kashmir to this day. The Pakistani people may not have forgotten the fact that when the whole nation had gone on a strike to show solidarity with the people of Kashmir, the MQM had started terrorism at that time and Kashmiri camps were fired at. Altaf Hussain himself had instigated the people to work against it and accelerate instigatory activities.

If we view the recent disclosures and the MQM character of the past, all of this appears to be correct. The large amount of weapons coming to Karachi in connection with the Indian Consulate, receiving financial aid from it, looting and kidnapping incidents for obtaining ransoms, and depositing all this money in Altaf Hussain's account all support this. Deluding the Muhajir community with misleading propaganda and presenting himself as religious leader, Altaf Hussain's staying in London in order to keep contacts with India's intelligence agencies, and deteriorating the situation as per their wishes also point to this fact. Nawaz Sharif himself had put his politics on the path that had led to coalition with our enemies and has hurt Pakistan. We just cannot ignore this tragedy. It is a fact that the Awami National Party, the Muslim League, and Altaf Hussain are cooperating in London and have made a plan to disintegrate Pakistan and destroy it by terrorism.

As for connection with Delhi and the presence of Altaf Hussain's associates in Delhi, this all started when military action against the MQM was launched during Nawaz Sharif's era. The MQM terrorists had either gone underground or become active against Pakistan while living in India. It is surprising that some of the MQM assembly members who had moved from India 10 years ago and had been living illegally in Pakistan have managed to participate in the political process and get elected as councillor and parliament members. During Nawaz Sharif's era some of them had been appointed cabinet members. Thus, thousands of such people who are still Indian citizens are involved in illegal activities in Pakistan. These people had come from India according to a plan and are involved in illegal activities here. Anyhow, there is no room for any doubt after these disclosures that more information can

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be brought to light if our intelligence agencies do some work. In addition, the government should apprehend these MQM terrorists without showing any leniency and also inform the nation about their activities.

Article Urges Revenge Against MQM in Karachi

95AS0460E Lahore MUSAWAT in Urdu 5 Jun 95 p 3

[Editorial: "MQM's Dangerous Plans to Destroy Karachi"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Muhajir Quami Movement [MQM] and some other terrorist groups have accelerated their activities to let terrorists take over Karachi, murdering innocent people on a daily basis, and destroying government and private properties. It is clear from the sensational disclosures made recently that the MQM has formed various terrorist groups under various names. These groups have assigned territories of operation. These groups include Dada Commandoes, Para, Deputy, and Shoora groups. These groups operate in their assigned territories and receive instructions from Altaf groups regularly.

A secret meeting of the MQM was held recently at their headquarters in Altaf Hussain's residence. A shocking plan to hand over Karachi to terrorists was made here. It was learned that services of a taxi driver belonging to Mansara were sought to purchase weapons and procure home-made bombs. The amount for purchasing weapons was also decided in this meeting.

The increase in MQM's terrorism during the last few weeks occurred after the talks held between Nawaz, Wali, and Altaf in London. In addition, they have also got assurance from the Indian intelligence agency [RAW] for its moral and material support. According to some sources, the former boss of RAW participated in the meeting held between Altaf, Khatak, and Nawaz Sharif three months ago. They discussed ways to unsettle the present government. [passage omitted]

Some terrorists arrested in Peshawar and Karachi recently gave statements about destruction in Karachi. In the light of these statement, neither is there any doubt of their involvement nor can the MQM and some other opposition groups deny this responsibility.

The prime minister referring to the situation in Karachi declared last week in a press conference that terrorism started here in 1986 when a student, Bashra Zedi, was killed in a bus accident. The MQM has established the practice of making Karachi a hell and has been blackmailing people for the last nine years. During General Zia's rule, when this ethnic party was created, Altaf Hussain not only harassed Sindhis but also had established hostile relations with Pathans, Punjabis, and Balochis. The truth is that Altaf Hussain's attitude has always been insulting toward Pathans and Punjabis. He used to call them by various names.

The newspaper files between 1986 and 1990 support the fact that the violent incidents that occurred in the name of Pathan refugees and Punjabi refugees had resulted in the loss of properties worth billions of rupees belonging to Punjabis and Pathans living in Karachi. Bodies of many young men killed here were sent to Punjab. Monstrosities were committed in torture cells, holes were made in their bodies with drills, some were burned alive, and some were skinned. The torture cells sieged in 1992 prove that they had established a separate nation right inside this country. Even the top leadership of MQM was involved in kidnapping incidents to get ransoms. They received regular shares and the prominent investors were not only afraid of MQM's hired criminals but provided them money whenever they asked for it. Those who disobeyed them were tortured.

It is surprising that it was during Nawaz Sharif's government that these torture cells were discovered, the MQM leadership was arrested, and they went underground during that time. Now, these same terrorists are staying in the Indian capital and controlling the terrorists in Karachi. The worst thing is that Nawaz Sharif being a Punjabi is agreeing with the terrorists who used to curse Punjabis openly in the past.

Terrorism in Karachi has been accelerated by the MQM now and deals on rocket launchers and bombs are made. What will be the result of all this? Should the people tolerate further terrorism? The time has come when the people catch these terrorists who are agents of foreign powers by their collars, pierce their eyes, and thrust their hands and feet into holes in walls after breaking them.

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